

AUGUST 1987

M A G A Z I N E

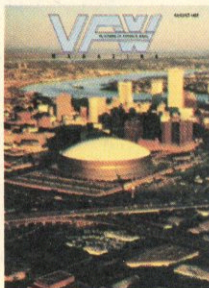


88th National Convention
Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States
New Orleans, Louisiana
August 14-21, 1987

VFW Magazine
406 West 34th
Kansas City, Mo. 64111
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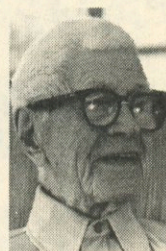
This aerial view of downtown New Orleans gives delegates to the 88th National VFW Convention a somewhat different impression of the Convention city from what they will see on the ground, for New Orleans is one of the nation's most exciting cities. It is famed for its quaint French Quarter, noted cuisine and the variety of its nightlife. underlying all this is its music, which, like its food, is a blend of all the varied ethnic groups that make New Orleans the distinctive city it is.

COVER STORY

Convention Time. Three features remind VFW members that the 88th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States will be held from Aug. 14 to Aug. 21 in New Orleans. They cover the history of the Convention city, the official band of the VFW and the nation's first female Department Adjutant-Quartermaster.

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San Juan Hill's Last Survivor by Nancy E. Roman. Ralph Waldo Taylor, who died last May at 105, was the oldest veteran of the Spanish-American War at the time of his death. The writer covered Taylor's 105th birthday last December, and he told her many anecdotes of his career as a soldier in Cuba with the 71st New York Volunteer Infantry. He was a VFW member.



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Whatever Happened to Guadalcanal? by Gary Bousman. On Aug. 7, 45 years ago, the Marines landed on Guadalcanal as the United States went on the offensive to roll back the Japanese and began to recover from the losses at Pearl Harbor and the Philippines. Bousman, an Army veteran of the campaign, recently visited Guadalcanal and set down his impressions.

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Winning His Spurs by Dan McCarthy. Merv Ringlero, a Pima-Papago-Cahuilla Indian, served in the World War II 1st Cavalry Division, became a champion Army boxer, fought with the Army's 1st Special Service Force in Italy, Southern France, Austria and Czechoslovakia. Later he became a skilled saddlemaker and turned out saddles for many of the movies' greats, famed for Western roles.

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'We Are a Mighty Rallying Force'



Norman G. Staab
VFW Commander-in-Chief

How can words fully convey the feelings that describe the climax of a life's work in the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S., reaching the ultimate leadership position as your Commander-in-Chief, and be extended all the courtesies, kindnesses and hospitality reserved usually only for a head of state. It is a feeling that defies description.

So many wonderful examples of warmth and generosity I have experienced from the wonderful people who make up our VFW and its Ladies Auxiliary that it would be inappropriate of me to single out any examples because I would be guilty of slighting so many marvelous comrades and sisters.

One of the highlights of the year, however, must be recorded. That was the audience in the Vatican with Pope John Paul II, that holy man whose beautiful smile radiates sanctity and charity for all humanity. Being in his presence was awesome and inspiring. Like ourselves, he is an old soldier, a fighter for his native Poland in the Polish underground, who continued his battle for his country as a "Prince of the Church" contending with Poland's Communist regime.

Our VFW is highly regarded throughout the world with its many worthy goals, its exclusiveness, support of our priorities of a strong

national security and assurance that the veteran receives all the earned entitlements that our grateful nation bestowed on the warriors of our great country to preserve our freedom way of life. Our resolve is backed by 32 consecutive years of membership growth. At the present time we have attained the highest membership in our history with well in excess of 2 million and 750,000 in our Ladies Auxiliary. We are a mighty rallying force to insure the nation's greatness. We have rallied these past 88 years, and we can be assured that we will continue to do so for a long time to come.

What a year to have served as your Commander-in-Chief! If I were to select the year to be your Chief, this would have had to be that year. This year has been marked by unparalleled leadership from the grass roots, Posts, Districts, Departments, National Council, Conference leadership and last, but not least, the premier leadership you selected from the Eastern Conference in our great Sr. Vice Commander-in-Chief Earl Stock. He is a man who has

to convey a message of real concern and inspiration. It is impossible to thank adequately these two soon-to-be Chiefs for all the help and assistance they gave us during our greatest time of need.

The staff in Kansas City, under the able Adjutant Gen. Howard E. Vander Clute, Jr., has again proven that we have the administrative expertise to grow and exceed all past records.

The Washington Office, with its Executive Director Cooper T. Holt, again has served as the watchdog of our organization and our nation: always vigilant, well-briefed, known by the nation's leaders and able to bring our leadership together for our mutual interest.

We have moved forward. We have insured that we stay abreast of the latest developments in our areas of concern, striving to lead the way with innovations to improve our performance as an organization. Continuously, we purge antiquated programs and lead the way for an ever stronger VFW. We have been able to change our applications for



Pope John Paul II greets Mrs. Cacilie Staab and Commander-in-Chief Norman G. Staab.

demonstrated his ability and knowledge of our organization and placed it to good use in the field. He has been always ready to serve and assist in any way possible. Truly he has been the veterans' advocate. From the Southern Conference came our Jr. Vice Commander-in-Chief Larry Rivers. He is a man who has brought new standards with his expert knowledge and articulate ability

membership to provide an easier method by which an eligible veteran may enter our Life Member ranks.

In conclusion, let me say thanks for allowing me to serve as Commander-in-Chief of the greatest organization on earth. With your determination and dedication, we continue to lead the way as the "Rallying Force" for this country and the defenders of our freedom. ■

USS Liberty Comment

Congratulations and thanks to you for your very well constructed and eloquent essay on the USS Liberty. It was not only eloquently phrased but informative, and I hope it will help to keep the USS Liberty alive until one day our government releases all the information needed to explain why the assault on the Liberty occurred and why the Liberty survivors still have not been able to obtain all the facts. I am a World War II veteran with a special interest in the USS Liberty: I am a retired Foreign Service Officer who was serving in the American Embassy in Cairo, while the Liberty was under attack. I was later serving in the Department of State when we were trying to collect damages from the government of Israel. Believe me, to say that this process was protracted and difficult is a gross understatement. James Ennes's book is only a partial story; the full story is still in U.S. government archives. — *C. Patrick Quinlan, 5601 Dewey Hill Road, Edina, Minn. 55435.*

Call Japanese to Account

The article by Philip R. Piccigallo, "In the Shadow of Nuremberg" (June), is a fact of human conduct that needed to be told. On May 20, 1987, before your article was published, I brought to the attention of Sens. Hatfield and Packwood that "while we are speaking of war crimes, I noted that the President of Austria is not welcome in this country, yet I note on TV many Japanese businessmen are worse in war crimes than the Austrian." I frankly believe Congress is letting the Japanese off because of the \$80 billion dollar trade surplus and forgetting their tremendous crimes against the Chinese, Americans and other allies of World War II. The Japanese committed needless atrocities in cold blood. They beheaded my cousin, a B-24 gunner, Duward Flood. — *Clyde V. Brummell, 8435 S.E. 17th Ave., Portland, Ore. 97202.*

I wish to thank you and Philip R. Piccigallo for the fine article, "In the Shadow of Nuremberg". As a POW of

the Japanese for 44 months in WWII, I have been plagued by this question many times. A Japanese Navy lieutenant, in a bushido orgy, beheaded three Wake Island sailors and two Marine staff NCOs on Jan. 22, 1942, while our prison ship was enroute to Shanghai, in Japanese-occupied China. To this day, the Japanese officer has not been found or brought to justice. I agree with Mr. Piccigallo. It is time the Japanese face up to their record. — *Charles A. Holmes, CWO4, USMC (Ret.), 1202 Pecan St., Bonham, Tex. 75418.*

Philip R. Piccigallo concludes his article "In the Shadow of Nuremberg" as follows: "Isn't it time for a Japanese prime minister to lay a wreath at Pearl Harbor—say, this coming Aug. 6." What a wonderful idea! And how about a wreath at Cabanatuan, where 2,616 American POWs died; another at O'Donnell, where 1,549 died in one month; and strew wreaths along the route of the Bataan Death March; and drop a few in the China Sea where thousands of U.S. and allied POWs met watery graves on unmarked Japanese POW ships enroute to Japan. Yes, the prime minister could stay busy for a long time. Wouldn't it be nice if the Japanese picked up the tab for disability payments to those who were their POWs. — *Benson Guyton, 704 14th Avenue S.E., Decatur, Ala. 35601.*

A big round of applause to Philip R. Piccigallo for his article on the killing of 10 million Chinese by the Fascist Japanese in WWII. Every August, we are treated to a huge guilt trip self-inflicted on us because of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, with modern-day moralists condemning America for using The Bomb. Let us not forget the slaughter that bomb halted and the additional 15 million U.S.-Japanese casualties from battle and starvation that most certainly would have occurred had we invaded and fought the Japanese until about 1950. — *Dr. Griffin T. Murphey, 1124 South Lake, Suite D, Fort Worth, Texas 76104.*

I have always wondered why we have not exposed Japanese war crimes the way we have the Germans'. When I read the June issue of VFW, some of my feelings were expressed in Philip R. Piccigallo's article "In The Shadow of Nuremberg." I was a Navy corpsman in WWII and saw what the Japanese had done to our people, especially when I was in the Navy and attached to the Army 29th Replacement Depot in the Philippines, at the time our men came back from Borneo and Japan. I can still see them sick, wounded and suffering from malnutrition. Japan couldn't beat us at war, but if we aren't careful, it will beat us with technology, automobiles, televisions and anything else it builds, with the balance of trade in the condition it is now. — *Charles R. Rowson, Rt. 1, Box 160, Fulton, Mo. 65251.*

Who Won the War?

A veteran of World War II, European theater, I don't know how veterans of the Pacific campaign feel, but I am very much concerned about the balance of trade with the Japanese. I try to buy American products and would never buy a foreign-made car or large appliance. When I see a Japanese car, I don't think Honda, Toyota, Isuzu or Mazda. I think Pearl Harbor, Iwo Jima, Saipan, and I remember the Bataan Death March, Corregidor and the bridge on the River Kwai. It seems that the Japanese lost the war and won the peace. Our shoe and apparel industries have been almost ruined by foreign competition, and the electronics industry is in serious danger. How many jobs will be lost before Congress acts? — *N.C. Grieneringer, Rte. 3, Box 135, Somerville, Ala. 35670.*

Two Thoughts, One Subject

Regarding "Warriors' Memories Never Fade" (May, VFW Magazine) and PBS's "Soldiers of the Summit": Now that we've read the book and seen the movie about 10th Mountain's illus-

continued on page 8

trious abilities, two thoughts come to mind.

First, an old Missouri saying, "Damn the eyewitnesses; they've ruined more good stories than the official records ever could." Second, I guess that high altitude really does make you light-headed. Wouldn't it be peachy wonderful if you guys would all file a class action claim against VA for your service-connected disability to compensate for this severe chronic malady. Gee whiz, the possibilities are endless. You could pool the money and maybe even make another movie. How about "Rambo on Skis" for an encore. Any way, good luck when you talk to St. Peter. — *George M. Morris, 3900 Circle Drive, Independence, Mo. 64052.*

Praises Articles on Blacks

This is to compliment you on your willingness to print, and on the accuracy with which you print, historical accounts of the achievements and exploits of Afro-American soldiers in all the past wars of the United States. Very few, if any, journals on military history give adequate and accurate accounts of the splendid Afro-American patriots who, as soldiers of the United States Army, not only distinguished themselves as members of their military units but also brought credit to their commanders, most often white, when their units rescued white units from disaster and defeat at the hands of the enemy. As Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army and a member of VFW Post 7358, of the District of Columbia, I thank you for the integrity and honesty of the VFW Magazine. Please continue your fine effort. — *H. Minton Francis, Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army, 1800 Sudbury Road, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20012.*

Earned Medal of Honor

"They Paved The Way" (June), while very interesting, contained no mention of 21-year-old Sgt. Henry Johnson, of Troop D, 9th Cavalry, the only black man ever to win a Medal of Honor on Colorado soil. The citation read in part, "Johnson voluntarily left fortified shelter under heavy fire at close range,

made his rounds of the pits to instruct the guards and fought his way to the creek and back to bring water to the wounded." This action took place during the Thornburg Battle, Sept. 29 to Oct. 5, 1879, about 20 miles north of Meeker, Colo. — *E. V. Rader, P.O. Box 838, Meeker, Colo. 81641*

Bellamy's Birthplace

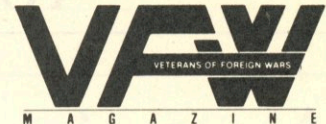
The birthplace of Francis Bellamy ("Father of the Pledge," June) is a small western New York State town called Mt. Morris. The house he was born in is still standing, with people living in it. A New York State historical marker is in front of it. I am calling his birthplace to your attention because this is my hometown also and as a member of VFW Post 547 in Mt. Morris. — *Casper Gerace, 73 Barnfield Road, Pittsford, New York 14534.*

Korean Dates

In the May issue, I discovered some incorrect dates on the pictures of the Korean War memorials in VFW in Action. Of course, the Korean War began on June 26, 1950, and ended when the armistice was signed on July 27, 1953. The Post 5083 memorial shows dates of 1950 to 1955. The memorial of Post 3613 shows dates of June 27, 1950, to July 27, 1954. — *John F. Pukalski, Sr., 2603 Salem Dr., Wilmington, Del. 19808.*

[Editor's note: The Korean War began on June 24, 1950 (Eastern Standard Time), although the date in Korea was June 25 because of the 14-hour time difference. On June 27 (EST), acting on the basis of the UN's demand that hostilities cease and the Communists withdraw, President Truman ordered Gen. Douglas MacArthur to assist the South Koreans. The truce was signed July 26, 1953 (EST), or July 27 (Korean time). Dates for the award of the Korean Service Medal, qualifying a veteran for VFW membership, are June 27, 1950, to July 27, 1954.]

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Official publication of the
**VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS
OF THE UNITED STATES**

Published monthly except July

VFW OBJECTIVES

- To insure the national security through maximum military strength
- To speed the rehabilitation of the nation's disabled and needy veterans
- To assist the widows and orphans and the dependents of disabled and needy veterans
- To promote Americanism through education in patriotism and constructive service to the communities in which we live

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Postmaster: Forward Form 3579 to

Circulation Dept., VFW Magazine

Broadway at 34th St.

Kansas City, MO. 64111

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U.S. and its possessions, \$4 per year, 40 cents per copy. For subscription in other countries, \$10 per year.

Payment of membership dues includes \$2.25 for a year's subscription to VFW Magazine. VFW Magazine is available in microfilm.

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University Microfilms

300 N. Zeeb Rd.

Ann Arbor, Mich. 48106

VFW MAGAZINE

EDITORIAL OFFICE

Address all communications for publication to The Editor, VFW Magazine, Broadway at 34th St., Kansas City, MO 64111

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MEMBER AUDIT BUREAU
OF CIRCULATION

(ISSN 0161-8598)

WASHINGTON WIRE

LEGISLATIVE

Pending Legislation: Rep. Judd Gregg (N.H.) has introduced legislation that would restore the national observance of Memorial Day to the traditional date of May 30. The VFW has long supported by Convention resolutions such action and commends Rep. Gregg for introducing this bill, H.R. 1647.

Memorial Day was established to honor those men and women who gave their lives in defense of our Republic and who are no longer with us to share the benefits of their sacrifices. Sadly, when Congress in 1971 transformed this day of tribute into a three-day weekend at the end of May, it effectively obscured its true meaning. Rep. Gregg, in introducing H.R. 1647, said: "As we prepare once more to honor those brave Americans who died in defense of their country, let us commit ourselves to restoring the importance of May 30. There was certainly no thought of convenience when this country sent our soldiers off to war, and we should not get caught up in what is convenient now, as we honor those who sacrificed their lives... The loss of a three-day weekend is trivial when compared to the ultimate price paid by those in defense of our liberties. On the 100th federal observance of Memorial Day [1988], it is fitting that we rededicate ourselves to the meaning and spirit of Memorial Day by returning it to its original observance."

May 30, 1868, was ordered as a day to pay tribute to the dead of the Civil War by Gen. John Logan, commander of the Grand Army of the Republic, the organization of Union veterans.

Two other bills which have the support of the VFW were introduced by Rep. Gerald Solomon (N.Y.) (H.R. 1707) and Sen. Strom Thurmond (S.C.) (S. 533). These pieces of legislation would upgrade the VA to a department and elevate the agency's administrator to the cabinet. Not only has the VFW adopted a resolution in support of the language contained in these initiatives, but it also has made this issue a top priority goal. The VA administers programs that contribute directly to the nation's economy. By operating the largest independent hospital system in the United States, the VA has a direct impact on all medical care and research. More than half the physicians practicing in the U.S. have received some portion of their training in a VA medical facility. The VA also administers one of the nation's largest income maintenance programs through the veterans' compensation and benefit system; the largest loan guaranty program in the federal government providing an impact on the entire housing industry; the largest direct insurance program in the country through its various insurance programs for disabled and other veterans, and an educational program that interacts with almost every post-secondary and vocational institution in the nation. This results in a stronger national economic base. In essence, the

services provided by the VA touch in some way virtually every family in America. For these reasons, the VFW strongly encourages and fully supports the advancement of H.R. 1707 and S. 533.

New Public Law: After a long fight and what Rep. G. V. (Sonny) Montgomery (Miss.) labeled one of the most effective lobbying efforts on Capitol Hill, the New GI Bill is now a permanent program. While there have been four previous programs of educational benefits for veterans, this marks the first time that such a valuable effort has been made a permanent fixture on the national scene. Rep. Montgomery, at a ceremony just before the bill was sent to the White House for President Reagan's signature said: "We have a program that has made our nation more secure and has given young men and women the chance to improve themselves. This opportunity would never have come their way except for the New GI Bill."

Under the new law, participating recruits must complete three years of active duty with an honorable discharge in order to qualify for \$300 a month in educational benefits, to a maximum of \$10,800. An individual completing two years of active duty plus four years of service in the Selected Reserve is entitled to \$250 a month in educational benefits up to a maximum of \$9,000. In return, the basic pay of personnel participating in the program is reduced by \$100 a month during their first year of service. Basic benefits are administered and paid by the VA, but the various service branches can offer recruits increases over the basic monthly benefit in order to increase entitlements in critical areas or to encourage longer enlistments. Those signing up for at least six years in the Selected Reserve can receive up to \$5,040 for undergraduate college education, with no reduction in basic pay. These benefits are administered by the VA, but they are paid by the branch of the service involved. Rep. Montgomery, bill's author, received an additional honor for his untiring work in seeing that the New GI Bill became permanent when it was renamed the Montgomery GI Bill Act.

HVAC Acts on Vet Jobs: The Veterans' Job Training Act would remain open for new applications and could receive up to \$210 million in funding over the next three fiscal years if a bill recommended to the House by the Committee on Veterans' Affairs is enacted. H.R. 1504, as amended, would allow unemployed veterans to apply through Sept. 30, 1990, for training under the program. The measure would also extend from Jan. 2, 1988, to March 30, 1991, the date by which a veteran must be enrolled in an approved program of job training. At the urging of bill's author, Rep. Wayne Dowdy, the House in April approved a supplemental

WASHINGTON WIRE

appropriation for the program of \$23.7 million for FY 87; the Senate recently approved \$20 million. The House and Senate are now working toward a compromise agreement.

HVAC Okays Health Bill: The Veterans' Affairs Committee has sent to the House a comprehensive health care bill that would require the VA to submit for Congressional review reports which would provide justification for transferring any Vietnam veteran readjustment counseling center onto VA hospital grounds. The measure, H.R. 2616, would also establish an entitlement to VA outpatient care for service-connected and low income veterans. "This is one of the most important measures we will consider during the 100th Congress," said Committee Chairman G.V. (Sonny) Montgomery, "because it further strengthens a veteran's ability to obtain needed health care. Overall, it can greatly improve VA health care delivery."

SERVICE

Survey of Veterans III: The VA has received final approval to begin a nationwide survey of veterans to gather data on health status, use of VA benefits and services, socioeconomic characteristics and a wealth of other crucial information.

The study, to be conducted for the VA by the Bureau of the Census, is known as the Survey of Veterans III (SOV III). It is intended as a means of updating information obtained from a similar survey (SOV II) undertaken in 1979. The VA believes this is the only way it can reliably measure the effectiveness of the many programs it administers. The results will be used mainly to improve services and forecast utilization of benefits and services. A final survey report is expected in the summer of 1988.

A randomly selected group of 10,000 veterans will take part in SOV III. Participation is strictly voluntary. Each veteran who consents to participate will be interviewed at his/her place of residence or other agreed upon location by a member of the Census Bureau survey team. Each will be asked to complete a questionnaire which is designed to meet the needs of all departments within the VA.

The interview will take place during the period July - September, 1987. Interviews will average about one hour in length.

The VFW fully supports SOV III, believing it both necessary and timely. The VFW is satisfied that the data to be collected through this effort will greatly assist the VA in immediate and longrange planning. Veterans, their dependents and survivors will benefit directly through more efficient and responsive services. All

veterans who are asked to participate are encouraged to do so.

VAVS Pin Change: In the near future, you will notice a change in the type of pin awarded to VFW Veterans Administration Volunteer Service (VAVS) participants. As a result of a redesign effort, recognition of participation will now consist of a base pin with an attached hanging bar to denote hours of service. The pins issued for these past several years will continue to remain in force as a symbol of honor and selfless service to veteran patients. As the current stock of the earlier recognition pins is depleted, the new pins will be issued.

SECURITY

Preparing for the Next Arms Reduction Treaty: The Presidential announcement in June that NATO was prepared to accept a Soviet offer to eliminate all longrange intermediate (INF) and shorter range nuclear forces (SRINF) has created the strong possibility of a major arms reduction treaty in the near future. The treaty would cover only European-based U.S. and Soviet missiles, but such treaties have to be considered carefully before deciding whether the proposal meets U.S. and NATO's security interests. While the proposed treaty is still under consideration by the Geneva negotiators, it is time for Americans to weigh carefully U.S. security policy and begin to reach toward judgments on the merits of the IRINF/SRINF proposals.

A first consideration is gaining an understanding of the role of arms control in U.S. security policy. A fundamental tenet of U.S. security policy is that peace and security are best assured by following the dual paths of maintaining effective defense and deterrent capabilities and seeking, wherever possible, to increase cooperation with other nations and negotiate stabilizing and verifiable arms control agreements.

Given the rapid growth of Soviet military power, the United States and its allies have had a direct security interest in redressing by their own defense efforts and through arms control if possible current and emerging imbalances in conventional and nuclear forces. As democratic societies, they also have a basic responsibility to their people to maintain defense expenditures at the lowest level consistent with national and alliance security.

Western governments have developed and analyzed potential arms control agreements in terms of concrete security implications. They have engaged in extensive preparatory work, public discussion, and intra-alliance coordination to ensure that eventual agreements would strengthen security and stability and would enjoy public support. The results of this work are evident in the negotiating agenda.

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HARTFORD HOLIDAYS

Korean War Request

In the March Mail Call, Carroll W. Dolan wrote that the proposed Korean War Memorial in Washington would never be built and suggested that the money be divided among surviving veterans of the Korean War. I don't want the money. I propose that the VFW fight not for that tombstone and instead fight to get the President, Defense Department and Congress to declare that Korea was a war and that the President issue a letter of commendation or medal to all living or deceased Korean veterans. It would be cheaper than a monument. — Joe Karpis, Rte. 2, Box 28A, 145 Fleming Ave., Rivesville, W. Va. 26588.

Korean War Comrades?

I enjoyed the "Top Guns in MiG Alley" articles. Being at Kimpo Air Base in 1953, I was stationed with most of the pilots mentioned in your articles and found them not at all like the hot shots in the new movie "Top Gun." These pilots in Korea were very courageous and motivated to do their job in the shortest, easiest way, not make a joke or game out of it. I was in the 4th Air Base Group and worked and flew on the two C-47s that were assigned to us. If anyone else is left who was in Korea (or 4th ABG) in 1953, I would enjoy hearing from him. — John Spencer, 58090 Hidden Gold, Yucca Valley, Calif. 92284.

Seeks Owner

Many years ago at Chippewa Lake, Mich., I found a silver plated cigarette lighter with this inscription: "Vietnam, 69/70. Keith Hine. Compliments of 188th Ordnance Co. (Ammo). For a Job Well Done." I have kept this lighter for many years, and if anyone knows Hine, please send me his address so I can return it to him. — John Skupien Harrington, 11450 Second St., East, Treasure Island, Fla. 33706-4634.

Letters should be of no more than 100 words and deal with only one subject. Editing for space, clarity and good taste may be necessary. Published letters include the sender's name and address to enable readers to reply directly. Anonymous mail is not considered for publication. Space limitations preclude use of all the letters received.

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Vietvet Memorial Display

A highlight of the VFW 88th National Convention will be the display of 70 pictures from the Smithsonian Institute's collection of 180 photos taken at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial and published as "Reflections on the Wall: The Vietnam Veterans Memorial," a photographic essay, by Stackpole Books.

The exhibit will be at the Grand Salon Ballroom at the Hilton Hotel all during the Convention from Aug. 14 to 21 in New Orleans.

It is called "Vietnam Veterans Memorial: A National Experience" and was recorded by Smithsonian photographers in 1982 and 1984. The exhibit is traveling nationally for three years under the auspices of the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service.

Pictures shown and taken in 1982 were of the memorial's dedication, and those taken in 1984 were of the dedication of the monuments of three servicemen at the memorial.

Principal text of the book was written by Edward Ezell, curator of the Smithsonian's division of armed forces history.

Forewords were written by Jan Scruggs, president of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund; John Wheeler, its chairman; retired Gen. William C. Westmoreland and James Quay, a conscientious objector.

The exhibit was launched by the VFW on its national tour last February.

Publications Contest Winners

Following are the first place winners of the 1986-87 National Publications Competition: Department publications published 10-12 times a year, Michigan Overseas Veteran, Richard Foley, editor; Department publications published 4-8 times a year, Granite State News, Richard Noyes, editor; District and County Council publications, letterpress or offset, The Overseas Veteran, District 21, Texas, Charles Gulick, editor; District and County Council publications, mimeograph, The Untouchable News, District 2, Illinois, Richard Brand, editor; Post publications, letterpress or offset, Fridley Flyer, Post 363, Minnesota,

Frank Holm, editor; Post publications, mimeograph, Kilroy Sez, Post 3373, Mississippi, Tommy Mills, editor.

In announcing the winners, Commander-in-Chief Norman G. Staab said, "The key to success in our organization is communicating with each other, and there is no better communication system than our Post, District and County Council, and Department publications. I congratulate each and every editor who entered this contest. Through your work and dedication to excellence, you have played a major role in making the VFW the rallying force."

Ring's Owner Found

A nine-line letter in the April Mail Call from Steve Datko, of Fairchance, Pa., a member of Post 7219, has united a high school class ring with its original owner.

Datko had found the gold ring among the possessions of a dead German during the Battle of the Bulge during World War II, and since 1978 he had been trying to track down the original owner.

It bore the inscription "Emerson High School 1936" and inside the initials "J.T.G.," which, as it developed, should have been "J.T.I."

In a matter of days, Datko heard from Mrs. Jean Theresa Carney, of New Milford, N.J., an alumna of Emerson High School in Jersey City, who had given it to Arthur Diehl, of Jersey City, as he left for overseas in 1944, in exchange for a friendship ring he gave her. Her maiden name was Iarussi.

Diehl was killed during World War II, and apparently his body had been looted by the German before he himself was killed.

VA Researcher Honored

The VA has presented its highest scientific honor, the William S. Middleton Award, to Dr. Aaron J. Marcus, a clinician-investigator at the New York VA Medical Center, for his contributions toward understanding the complex biochemical events associated with blood clotting. His 1970 demonstration that aspirin inhibits blood clotting by its interaction with

blood platelets became the basis for aspirin therapy to assist in the prevention of strokes and heart attacks. These studies have led to his more recent work in the 1980s on the use of the body's own inhibitors of clotting in the treatment of stroke and coronary artery disease. Marcus was honored at the national meeting of the Association of American Physicians in San Diego last May 3.

Past Chief Vicites Dies

Past Commander-in-Chief Joseph L. Vicites, 62, of Uniontown, Pa., died July 10 after several months of declining health.

A funeral mass was offered for him at St. Therese's Roman Catholic Church on July 14, with burial in Sylvan Heights Cemetery in Uniontown.

Surviving are his wife, Dolores, a son, Vincent, and a daughter, Debbie.

He served as Commander-in-Chief in 1971-72 and was elected to that office at the 72nd National VFW Convention in Dallas. He was chosen Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief at the 71st in Miami Beach in 1970 and Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief at the 70th in Philadelphia in 1969.

A native of Uniontown, Past Chief Vicites was a veteran of World War II and served in the European Theater in an anti-aircraft unit.

He was a Life Member of Post 47 in Uniontown and was the first person to serve as its Commander for two terms. He was Commander of Pennsylvania's District 23 and Fayette County Council, Department Judge Advocate and Department Commander. He also served on the National Council of Administration, the National Budget and Finance Committee and several other National committees.

Active in the civic life of his community, Past Chief Vicites served as chairman of fund drives for several charitable organizations. He also was a member of the MOC, the American Legion and St. Therese's Church in Uniontown. He was honored by the Church with the Assumption Award and investiture as a Master Knight of Malta.

Five From Home Receive Diplomas

Five young ladies from the VFW National Home donned their caps and gowns, accepted their high school diplomas and became part of the Home's alumni.

Sue Greenawalt, Bleu Maraquin, Tami Lyn Pearson and Mari Jacquelyn Roy graduated from Eaton Rapids High School. The ceremonies marked the conclusion of their secondary education, as it did for Sonja Day when she graduated earlier this year. Their future plans may vary, but their gratitude to their benefactors is similar.

Sue Greenawalt

Greenawalt, who played varsity tennis for Eaton Rapids High School for three years, came to the Home in 1976. She hopes to become a dental hygienist.

"I want to thank the members of the VFW and the Ladies Auxiliary for sponsoring and supporting me at the VFW National Home," she said. An 18-year-old New York native, she was sponsored here by Ft. Bedford Post 7527 in Pennsylvania. "I enjoyed meeting many of you at conventions and at National Home activities you attended."

One of her fondest memories during the decade she spent at the Home was a summer vacation in Wells, Maine, during August, 1983. "I'd like to say a special thanks to those special people for that cottage vacation," she added.

Bleu Maraquin

Maraquin arrived at the National Home in August, 1975, under the sponsorship of Post 4271, Brooksville, Fla. She has been active in sports for many years, enjoying and excelling in basketball, volleyball and softball. Her plans include collegiate volleyball, law school and a career as an attorney.

"The past 12 years have been the most beneficial in my life," she said about the Home recently. "This has been my home, and I will greatly miss it when I'm gone. I want to thank those who have supported me and for allowing me to leave the Home with a promising future."



The VFW National Home's 1987 graduating seniors include Mari Roy, Sue Greenawalt, Tami Pearson and Bleu Maraquin. (VFW National Home photo by Danny Layne)

Tami Lyn Pearson

At 19, Pearson is the oldest of the group to graduate. She came to the Home in May, 1983, under the sponsorship of Post 27, Wiesbaden, Germany. She is also a volleyball enthusiast, likes a variety of music and enjoys cooking and sewing. Her plans include a career in cosmetology or the travel industry.

"Without the support of the VFW and Auxiliary members around the world, I wouldn't have this kind of

chance," said Pearson, who lives in New York I House as part of the Home's Independent Living Program. "There have been hard times, but with lots of love and help we have overcome those obstacles. Thank you for that love and dedication."

Mari Jacquelyn Roy

The National Home's last graduate in the class of 1987 is Roy, a petite 18-year-old who arrived here during the summer of 1982. She has been active in an assortment of sports since then. The Hammond, Ind., native plans to spend two years at the Lansing Community College, then transfer to Ferris State in Michigan where she will complete her degree.

"I'd like to thank the Hammond veterans of Post 802 who made it possible for me to live here," she said. "I've met so many special people while living here, and these experiences and opportunities have made me what I am today."

Sonja Day

A fifth graduate, Sonja Day, 18, earned her diploma a half-year ahead of her classmates and left the National Home in February.

Day's graduation meant she could return to Cincinnati to rejoin her older brother and mother. There, she awaits college admission results and is continuing her work with the elderly as a nurse's aid.

"Hopefully I'll get accepted to Florida State or Ohio State for the fall term," she said. Her studies will include biology and sociology, and she hopes one day to become a child psychologist. "Until then though, I'm just happy to have completed my schooling here in Eaton Rapids and once again rejoin my family."

Day and her younger brother, Donald, were sponsored by Ohio's Post 8794. ■

The Gravediggers

By Bill Siebert

When the aviation cadet training program was canceled, Bill Siebert was one of 200 other former air cadets transferred to Fort Warren, Wyo., and one of two who wound up in the 610th Quartermaster Graves Registration Co., not knowing what the work entailed. Neither did the officer in charge. After a seven-day furlough, the company went to England and then landed on Omaha Beach on July 3, 1944, less than a month after D-Day.

One of the first things we saw when we reached the top of the hills above the beach was row after row of white crosses in the cemetery established there starting on D-Day. I don't know what thoughts the others in the outfit had at that point, but I personally still did not realize what our job would be like. At no time had we had any classes or instructions concerning graves registration. So while I was sobered by the sight of the cemetery, I still did not relate our work to handling the combat dead.

And at first, we did not. We were billeted in a field above Cherbourg, and our first assignment was to bury tons of beef and potatoes the Germans had allowed to spoil in a building in the harbor area. When we finished that job, we started the duties assigned to graves registration companies. Each day we were given map coordinates from SHAPE that marked the spots where a body was to be picked up and taken to a military cemetery for reburial. Most of the time, we had to dig them up, but occasionally we had to fish them out of the waters of Cherbourg Harbor.

My first trip to the cemetery at Ste. Mere-Eglise for one of these pickups woke me up to the truth of our job. We drove in and our section sergeant went to report to the officer in charge. I walked around the corner of a hedgerow and came face

to face with rows of combat dead, laid out awaiting burial. Even more shocking was seeing a truckload of bodies, stacked like cordwood, being unloaded. I was so stunned that I could only stand and stare at the scene.

Up to that moment, the bodies we had handled had been buried long enough for decomposition to start, and they did not seem like the remains of humans. The worst thing about them was the smell. But the bodies on the grass before me still were people in my mind, and I just did not want to accept that much death, I guess. I was still shaken and depressed when we left the scene.

'Even more shocking was seeing a truckload of bodies, stacked like cordwood, being unloaded. I was so stunned that I could only stand and stare at the scene. Up to that moment, the bodies we had handled had been buried long enough for decomposition to start, and they did not seem like the remains of humans.'

However, I was young and youth is strength. I learned to accept such sights, and when we were assigned to a cemetery for German dead at Orglandes, France, I was able to handle it. At the cemetery, we continued to send out teams to retrieve bodies, but now we were also responsible for processing for interment in the cemetery plots. Since Orglandes was for German dead

only, we continued to deliver American bodies to the Ste. Mere-Eglise location.

Processing was the same for all nationalities. Our medics removed all personal effects, leaving one I.D. tag with the body. It was then placed in a mattress cover and put in a grave, dug then by black units. Later on, German POWs did that work. A wooden marker was placed at the head of each grave bearing name, rank and serial number of the person buried there. A cross or a Star of David was used for the graves at American locations. I believe we used all crosses for the German dead. The personal effects from each body were checked, the items listed and placed in a bag and forwarded to Graves Registration Headquarters to be sent to next of kin. Anything we found unsuitable for return to the deceased's relatives was destroyed. Since I could type, sorting and registration of personal effects became my job.

From Orglandes, we were moved to the all-American cemetery outside Ste. Mere-Eglise, where we worked until shortly before Thanksgiving, when we were sent to another German cemetery near Brest, France. That is where I was when the German army launched its offensive that became known as the Battle of the Bulge. Because infantry replacements were needed quickly, rear echelon units like ours provided many of them.

All our privates and privates first class were given a physical, and a percentage of those who passed were taken from each company in the rear areas and sent to the infantry.

Thus my service in the gravediggers ended shortly after Christmas, and after a short refresher basic training course, I was sent to the 80th Infantry Division as a rifleman.

To this date, I haven't decided which job was worse—killing or burying. ■

Official Call



88th National Convention Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States New Orleans, Louisiana

The 88th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States to be held in New Orleans, from Aug. 14 to Aug. 21, will bring us together again to renew old friendships, to hear inspirational speakers and for many to receive awards for their achievements in a wide variety of activities.

The most important aspect of the Convention, however, is to debate and ultimately adopt or reject a broad range of resolutions brought before Convention delegates.

As always, the resolutions delegates approve will guide the National Officers and the organization in the coming year, and they will form the basis for positions the VFW will take on veterans' and national security issues during that 12-month period.

Following the Convention, National Committees will meet to study the resolutions the delegates have adopted and then prepare the priority goals based on the mandates of the National Convention. It becomes then the responsibility of officers on all levels of the organization to work for the realization of these goals.

In addition to considering resolu-



tions, delegates will be asked again to discuss and act on a large number of proposed changes in the By-Laws and Manual of Procedure. This revision was begun last year in order to eliminate any ambiguities in the language of many of the provisions.

Whatever the subject under discussion, let us all approach it in a spirit of true comradeship. All of us

seek only what is best for the organization, the nation, the veterans and their survivors and dependents.

As is so often the case, our National Convention is meeting at a time of unrest in many parts of the world. Such conditions of apparent instability could easily become a threat to the security of the United States—whether in the Middle East or Asia or closer to home in Latin America.

In many sectors of public opinion, veterans' rights are under fire, and we in the VFW must be ever-vigilant to make certain that anti-veteran elements will be defeated whenever or wherever they surface.

All in all, we can look back on a highly successful year. Our membership has achieved its 32nd consecutive year of

growth. Our work in most areas of our endeavors has won new laurels. We have been the Rallying Force.

Now let us look toward another successful Convention and pledge to work just as hard to make 1987-88 an even greater year.

Norman G. Staab
VFW Commander-in-Chief

New Orleans Rich in History

Louisiana was named for Louis XIV, and the explorer LaSalle went down the Mississippi River all the way to the Gulf of Mexico to see the territory between the Rockies and Alleghenies he claimed for France in 1682.

LaSalle was assassinated before he could establish a settlement, and it was another 17 years before Pierre Le Moyne, Sieur d'Iberville, and his younger brother Jean-Baptiste would put up a cross to designate what is now New Orleans for settlement.

New Orleans got its name in 1718 from the duc d'Orleans, regent for the child-king, Louis XV, just after a canny Scot named John Law obtained a 25-year charter to exploit the Louisiana Territory.

With extravagant claims of gold and silver to be found in the region, Law attracted European settlers who found instead hostile Indians, cypress shacks and swamps alive with mosquitos, but the newcomers stayed on. In 1727, 88 women were freed from prison and sent with eight Ursuline nuns as brides for the males in the tiny community. It grew and became a crown colony in 1737.

According to a legend, the Louisiana Territory became Spanish in 1762 to pay off a bet Louis XV lost to his cousin Charles III, of Spain. Four years later, the settlers in New Orleans learned of the change in ownership

when the Spanish arrived to claim their land. The French revolted and forced the Spanish commissioner, Don Antonio de Ulloa, to flee. Twenty-two Spanish ships and 3,000 troops arrived in 1769, and Don Bernardo de Galvez took over as governor. Later he helped the Americans during the Revolution with supplies and after Britain declared war on Spain by destroying British settlements on the Mississippi and the Gulf coast.

Two massive fires destroyed the city in 1788 and 1794; it was quickly rebuilt because of its importance as a seaport and the river's importance to Americans who sent their goods down it on flatboats for shipment to Europe.

Because Spain needed the money and could not afford it, the Louisiana Territory was returned to France in 1801. Thomas Jefferson, who disliked

Napoleon, did not want New Orleans to fall into his hands and was worried that this would force the U.S. into an alliance with Britain. At first the French were reluctant to sell the Louisiana Territory to the U.S., but when Napoleon's Louisiana-bound expeditionary force was wiped out by yellow fever and stormy weather early in 1803, he decided to sell for \$15 million. The agreement was signed in the Cabildo overlooking Jackson Square in October, 1803. Two years later New Orleans was incorporated as a city, and in 1812 Louisiana was admitted to the Union.

In January, 1815, Andrew Jackson defeated the British in the 29-day Battle of New Orleans. The British lost 2,200 men, while Jackson lost only 52. It was all in vain. The treaty ending the war had been signed on Dec. 24, 1814.

By 1840, New Orleans was second only to New York in wealth and was the fourth largest city in the country—all because of the boom brought on by the steamboat and the flourishing cotton and tobacco trade.

The Civil War and a malaria outbreak in 1871 hampered the city's growth, but it soon regained its importance. Then in 1915, it was struck by a severe hurricane, and the flu epidemic of World War I cost 35,000 lives.

None of this stopped New Orleans. It is now the nation's biggest port and the third largest in the world. ■



Music to Your Ears

How many delegates know that the spirited martial music they hear at VFW National Conventions—and will at the 88th in New Orleans—is provided by the VFW National Band, sponsored by Post 47, of Uniontown, Pa.?

Well, it is, and the Post 47 band has held that title now for 15 of the nearly 40 years of its existence.

As the official band, the musicians have performed for so many dignitaries and nationally-known figures that it nearly boggles the mind. Three of them were Presidents Ronald Reagan, Gerald Ford and Richard Nixon; four more were Vice Presidents Spiro Agnew and George Bush and actors John Wayne and Bob Hope. But the list of such notables is virtually endless.

But the band does not limit its appearances to VFW National Conventions. It has gained local fame by taking part in Uniontown's Americanism Day parade, the All-Ethnic Festival, Italian Festival, Memorial Day ceremonies and Halloween and Veterans Day parades.

Then there are those in the area marking patriotic occasions like the Fourth of July or locally organized celebrations that add to the further luster of the band and the VFW itself.

By special invitation, the band marched in the 1985 Pittsburgh Columbus Day Parade and the 1986 Three Rivers Regatta Parade.

The Post 47 band boasts a diversity of membership. Its 75 members include insurance agents, accountants, secretaries, mechanics, professional musicians, jewelers, skilled craftsmen, engineers, college and high school students, elementary and high



school teachers, college professors, a retired fire chief, salesmen, small business owners, retired military personnel, orchestra leaders and other retirees. Currently the age range of active marching members is 15 to about 80.

Although the band is best known as a marching unit, it displays its musical expertise in concerts as well. The marching folio includes a wide range of marches from Sousa to polkas, while the concert folders contain overtures, march paraphrases, Broadway show tunes, easy listening pieces and suites as well as a full military repertoire. Also included are "Hail to the Chief" and "Hail Columbia" for appearances with the President and Vice President.

As most of the players in the VFW band are accomplished musicians, the list of other groups in which its members have performed is extensive. Some of the better known ones are the Pittsburgh Symphony and show bands in Chicago and New York. Others range from state and county fair circuit bands to numerous military bands around the world, com-

munity, firemen's, high school, college and university bands.

A review of the history of the VFW Post 47 band shows one man who stands out as its greatest advocate: Andrew Varnak, who served as its business manager and promoter for nearly 30 years. He was one of the original organizers and was responsible for fundraising for music, uniforms and equipment and to pay traveling expenses.

His love and care for young musicians kept the band alive with a constant influx of new talent and new faces. His personal mission was to care for all band members wherever they traveled. His numerous positions in the VFW Post, District and State organizations allowed him the clout to lead the band to its present status among VFW units throughout Pennsylvania and the nation.

Well known throughout southwestern Pennsylvania, the band dates back to a meeting of the Uniontown Musicians Union in 1949 when its members discussed a need and desire for a marching band in the Uniontown area. Interest spread rapidly, and within a month 45 talented men gathered at their original home, the AmVets Post in Uniontown, under the direction of Alex Macar.

But within a few months AmVet members found the band's rehearsals "too noisy," so the musicians moved to what was to become their permanent home, VFW Post 47, which also is the home Post of Past Commander-in-Chief Joseph L. Vicites.

Much of the band's successes can be attributed to its outstanding conductors. After three years, Macar passed the baton to Ted Groppi, who held the conductorship for one year. Then Bob McCoy, who went on to perform with Doc Severinsen and Mitch Miller, succeeded Groppi. Successive conductors included Sammy Bill, Herb Franks, Jerry Franks, Ray (Pappy) Battaglini and Philip Arnone, who currently holds the posi-

tion.

In 1954, the band won the distinction of designation as the official Pennsylvania VFW Band and has held that honor ever since. Each summer the band leads the parade and entertains the delegates at the department convention held on a rotating basis in

Philadelphia, Harrisburg, Erie and Pittsburgh.

The band began traveling to VFW National Conventions in 1961, and in 1972 captured its first national championship. It retained the coveted title through 1986 and was recently named the 1987 National Band by VFW Na-

tional Commander-in-Chief Norman G. Staab.

In performance of its national duties, the band has traveled to Dallas, Chicago, New Orleans, Los Angeles, New York, Philadelphia, Detroit, Cleveland, Miami and Minneapolis.

A VFW First

The VFW Department of Louisiana can be proud of a lot of things—the number of times the National Convention has met in New Orleans since the end of World War II, furnishing the VFW two Commanders-in-Chief and one from the state ready to take over in 1988—but one of the most notable is that Louisiana is the first Department to have a woman as Adjutant-Quartermaster.

Precilla Landry Wilkewitz, now in her third term in that office, is a veteran of Vietnam who joined Post 4224 with her husband, Ken, in Baker, La., in January, 1980, after the 79th National Convention overturned the VFW's 79-year-old rule barring women from membership.

Three years later she became Post 4224's first woman Commander and the first one in the Department.

"Throughout the State of Louisiana, the comrades and Auxiliary members have been extremely kind and gracious to me since I have joined the VFW," she said. "Now, I feel the Department officers, Department Commander Wally Hymel (1986-1987) and

all the guys are proud of my work, and they make me feel as though I am one of them.

"They do not spare any words when I am around; they tell it like it is when I make a mistake and let me know in no uncertain terms."

Mrs. Wilkewitz said that eligible women veterans are missing a fine opportunity to serve their country again by not joining the VFW or another veterans' organization.

"The reasons? All who served their country should join together to ensure the freedom of the United States and

work toward an end to war—no more dead heroes—and to help preserve the rights of all veterans, those now and those of the future who may be in need.

"They should know the louder our voices are the more others listen. I believe in the rights of veterans, the rights of our country and our right to make things better for all."

Mrs. Wilkewitz recalls that she had no difficulty in becoming a member of Post 4224: "The guys in my Post were receptive to the idea of a female comrade. Their feeling was that if she earned a campaign medal and can prove it, so be it.

"In the Department in general, they have accepted me as one of them, but there are a few diehards. When I went to my first conference, I asked one of the men if this was the meeting room. He turned and pointed to the Auxiliary meeting room. I looked at him funny and pointed to my VFW Post 4224 cap. Then he understood and pointed to the room assigned to VFW members. Some asked if it was my husband's cap."

She met Ken, who is from Sarver, Pa., on a blind date in Vietnam, and not only is he a VFW member but their son, Justin, 9, is a member of Sons of the VFW Unit 282.

Mrs. Wilkewitz says three women are members of Post 4224, and perhaps 40 others are members of other Posts in Louisiana.



Louisiana Adjutant-Quartermaster Precilla Wilkewitz

S A N J U A N H I L L ' S L A S T S U R V I V O R

By Nancy E. Roman



Teddy Roosevelt

was not on a horse," Taylor says emphatically. "Teddy Roosevelt was on foot, just like we were. I saw him."

In 1898, Taylor had been reading about the Spanish-American War in the local papers with the piqued interest of a 16-year-old. As an idealist, he was enamored of the Cuban revolutionists' struggle for freedom from Spain. Then Taylor read that the battleship USS Maine had been blown up in Havana harbor, and he became enraged along with the rest of America.

"When I heard that, I said to my father, 'Pop, I'm going to enlist,' " Taylor recalls, smiling.

"He said 'you're not, you're only 16.' "

"I said all right, then I go into the Navy as a cabin boy."

His father conceded, and Taylor joined the 71st New York Infantry. Soon he began the wearing journey from New Jersey to South Florida by train. The soldiers were poorly dressed and given little to eat aboard the train.

"Three days, three nights. Only hardtack to eat."

He pauses as though remembering the discomfort.

"It was the first of many hardships," he said. When the train chugged to a halt in a small Georgia town for supplies, the ravenous soldiers spilled from the train and swarmed over a local grocery store like ants over a melting gumdrop. Taylor said the troops made off with every morsel of food the owners had. It was an act, not of meanness, but of survival, he says.

"And the government had to reimburse them," he adds with a chuckle.

Ralph Waldo Taylor, the last survivor of the Battle of San Juan Hill and the last combat veteran of the Spanish-American War, died May 15 at 105 in North Broward, Fla. Nancy E. Roman interviewed the old warrior after he celebrated his 105th birthday a few months ago.

Though legally blind and nearly deaf, he told lucid, poignant war stories about a battle that happened 89 years ago. The brief war left him with dysentery and malaria. It also left him with a heap of memories.

He was a Life Member of Post 10477 in North Lakeland, Fla.

When the soldiers reached their destination in Lakeland, Fla., they began a two-week training session and then set out on foot for the 100-mile trek to Tampa where they set sail for Cuba. They made the journey wearing woolen winter uniforms in the August heat.

After two weeks at sea, they landed in Siboney, where they spent their first night in a machine shop. Taylor remembers that the next day they were called in to help Teddy Roosevelt's Rough Riders.

"But it was too late," he said. When they got to the next village, some Rough Riders already lay in blood-stained clothes — some injured, some dead.

"We didn't see any action that time," he recalled.

There are many more anecdotes from the two weeks before the famous battle of San Juan Hill. Taylor tells all he remembers.

One night, he says, he was chosen to post guard for the camp. "I heard a noise in the bushes, and so I shot at it," he said. The soldiers in camp assumed it was enemy fire and began dressing and hitching on their guns.

The enemy turned out to be a land crab scuttling in the bushes, "and there we were," said an amused Taylor.

There they were.

Taylor has forgotten a few of the stories unless prodded by his wife Bessie, some 30 years his junior.

"Tell them about when you got separated from the others," she prompts. And he follows on cue telling about the day when a comrade was shot. Taylor was on the detail sent to bury him. "We dug the hole. We wrapped the body in a blanket. We put the body in the hole and shoveled dirt into it," he said.

But while Taylor was away, a sergeant took roll call. He assumed all those on the burial detail were missing or dead.

Taylor's family was notified that he was missing.

"Dumb sergeant," he said, still peevish nearly a century later.

Bessie Taylor pulls a yellow photocopy from a pile of clips. It is a letter from Taylor's mother, written in 1898, expressing first worry and then relief that her son had been lost and then found. The letter ends in praise of the war's end.

"What an experience you've had for one so young," she wrote. "Yesterday the Stars and Stripes were sent up over Santiago, and I can almost hear the shout you boys all gave. What a glorious victory for us."

Victory at San Juan was declared June 9, 1898, but many of the troopers who survived were ill or near death.

"We lived off hardtack and the fruit off the trees," he said repeatedly. That meant mostly mangoes for the bulk of nine days.

Taylor said when the war ended, an older friend asked if he had any

'They mobilized thousands to fight in the war, but only a handful actually fought,' he said, adding that Taylor ate salt pork and rotten beef during the war ...

money. He did have a wad of bills stuck in his shoe that he volunteered for a bottle of rum the two shared in celebration.

The next day Taylor's sergeant told the troops they could go home if they were well enough to answer roll call in the morning.

"I answered that roll call, yes I did," he said, adding he drank a cup of rum, walked to the deck of the ship and collapsed from sickness and fatigue.

Back in his native New York, it took him five months to recover. But at the end of that time he was well enough to enter and win a mile-long relay race for soldiers.

Taylor said that an officer saw him and remarked: "A few months ago I

saw the flies crawling in and out of your mouth, and I never thought you'd make it."

He did make it through the war and beyond. Last December, 250 people gathered to wish him well at his 105th birthday party in Pompano Beach, Fla. He outlived his eldest daughter, who died at 83, and two wives.

His wife, Bessie, said when he was awakened for the party, the first words out of his mouth were "I made it."

Of late, Taylor has been heralded by the New York Times and Associated Press as the oldest living survivor of the Spanish-American war. Reporters have crept from the rafters for a glimpse of the 105-year-old war vet with a head full of white hair and perfect posture.

Taylor is modest about his status as the oldest living Spanish-American War veteran.

"Due to no effort of my own, I'm a survivor of 27,000," Taylor said last August when National Guard Brig. Gen. Robert Howell handed Taylor a painting of Teddy Roosevelt's Rough Riders, who charged up San Juan Hill, eventually bringing the Spanish and Teddy fame.

But Bob Hawk, who recently wrote a book about the National Guard's role in the Spanish-American War, was less modest about Taylor's accomplishments.

"They mobilized thousands to fight in the war, but only a handful actually fought," he said, adding that Taylor ate salt port and rotten beef during the war and eventually contracted diseases responsible for most of the war's deaths.

Recently he was asked to serve as grand marshal of a Veterans Day parade in Lantana, Fla.

"If they had only asked me a few years earlier," Taylor said.

But Taylor said in his old age, memories are the highlight of his life.

"You get to my age, and you can't fight the wars, but you can remember them." ■

Whatever Happened to Guadalcanal?

Aug. 7, 1942, marks the 45th anniversary of the beginning the long, grueling campaign for Guadalcanal. The writer revisited the scene a few years ago and set down his impressions.

"To the Mandarin Restaurant," I shouted.

When the driver nodded, I knew he had heard me in spite of the noisy engine of his taxi. In a few minutes we were heading along Mendana Avenue in the direction of Chinatown in Honiara on Guadalcanal.

Nor would any of us in those days have believed that stores, office buildings and hotels would stand where we had hacked at vines with thorns so sharp they would draw blood if touched with your bare hands. Any veteran who returns to Guadalcanal, as I did, is in for surprises. And, veterans, brace yourselves: there are very few mosquitos in or around the city.

Not much remains to show that the battles fought on Guadalcanal were a turning point in the war in the Pacific. There is a bronze plaque at the airport, and the rusting remains of the old Cactus Airforce control tower stands near the runway. If you do not mind being jolted over a very bumpy road south of the airport, you will see, almost hidden among the tall Kunaigrass, a monument honoring the Marines who, under Col. Merritt A. Edson, held off three massive Japanese assaults. This spot is still called "Bloody Ridge."

In the center of town there is an artillery piece but no sign or plaque to indicate that it was a Japanese howitzer we called "Pistol Pete." On a tree nearby you might see a small weatherbeaten sign indicating the spot where a battalion of U.S. Marines lost 60 men in an attempt to capture Lencakiki Ridge. Old Fighter Two Airstrip is now a part of the golf course, and Red Beach looks about the same as it did in 1942. Marsden matting that once covered Henderson Airfield now serves as fencing for cattle corrals and pig pens on small farms nearby.

The visitor to Guadalcanal today will see only scant evidence that American troops liberated the island finally in 1943. There are two small, privately owned war museums, one somewhat isolated. Even with the aid of an official government guide, I was not able to locate the site of the old military cemetery — a place where I, as an Army chaplain, buried 27 men.

In contrast, on Mt. Austen, a beautiful, well-landscaped memorial park honors the 20,000 Japanese who died on Guadalcanal. The day I visited the park, freshly picked flowers told me these men have not been forgotten. The park's two large marble monuments can be seen for many miles.

To understand the contrast, one must consider the influx of Japanese business enterprises in the Solomon Islands and the fact that Japanese tourists outnumber American visitors. Relatives of Japanese soldiers killed on the island make pilgrimages, often in large groups. Except for an occasional reunion, Americans come mostly as individuals. "We see about two or three American veterans each month," remarked a government official.

If the old landmarks have gone, memories of Americans are still fresh in the minds of older residents. Let it be known that you are an American veteran, and sooner or later, some man, with a big smile on his face, will say, "Me served in labor company. Glad to see you again." In a personal interview, the former prime minister, Peter Keniloria, said to me, "You call yourselves Americans. We call you friends." William Manchester, in his book, "Goodbye Darkness," says, "It is difficult to describe the adoration these (people) feel for the United States."

Some things on Guadalcanal have

not changed. The density of the mangrove forest makes it almost impossible to travel across the island except by air. Unchanged is the abundance of coconut trees and assortment of fruit and colorful flowers. Copra, palm oil, fish and timber are still the chief export items, though tobacco, coffee and rice plantations are being developed.

Nor has time changed some of the customs. A young man, for example, still pays a bride price to her parents before they are married. The price is about \$300 in shell money. Islanders do not see this practice as degrading to womanhood. Rather, they say, it places a value on women. The ceremonies accompanying the exchange of the bride money have deep cultural overtones. Said Keniloria, "It is wrong to think of buying a wife. The custom often binds the two families together; this in turn may lead to a stronger marriage union."

Guadalcanal today is a mixture of the old and the new. Melanesian fishermen, working from canoes as their ancestors did, may be seen casting nets close to large fishing vessels of the Japanese-owned Solomon Taiyo Ltd. When the same fisherman goes to the bank, he will be served by a fellow Melanesian operating a computer. From his humble dwelling on the coastal level, he may look up at the ridges and see the beautiful homes of government officials and European expatriates.

Many of us who were in the Solomon Islands during World War II will remember the natives take their religious convictions seriously. In American church circles there is a facetious cliché, "Come early if you want a back seat." In the Solomon Islands it should be said, "Come early if you want a seat." I saw large numbers of people on the outside of the churches on Sunday morning. I



was told the reason is that there are not enough seats inside for all the worshippers. What the visitor may not know is that the people who fill the churches are only a few generations down the line from ancestors who practiced cannibalism and human sacrifice.

In Honiara, you can buy almost anything except a cup of coffee in mid-morning or afternoon. Restaurants are open only for breakfast, lunch and dinner. Food is hardly of the gourmet variety but is salutary and tasty. Tipping is frowned on, and tourists are asked not to give coins to children. These practices, they say, degrade service and make beggars out of children.

You can walk the streets of Honiara at night without fear. Violence is rare, though an attempted rape was reported the week before my visit. "We average about one murder every two years," reported William Haome, the prime minister's press secretary. When the police make an arrest it is usually for drunkenness on payday

or for housebreaking.

Some are doubtful whether the low crime rate will continue. Honiara is a city of haves and have-nots. Driven by the boredom of village austerity or tales of opportunity in the city, many young men come to Honiara with the expectation of a new and exciting life. If they are lucky, and many are not, they may find sporadic employment at the minimum wage of 26 cents an hour.

Close ties between clan members complicate the problem. When a villager comes to the city, fellow clansmen are expected to house and feed the visitor. To refuse hospitality to a clansman would be shameful and the culprit might never be welcomed in the home village. This custom places a burden on the resident relative whose meager salary leaves no room for extras.

Speaking of extras, I had expected to find sports a popular pastime, but at a Saturday afternoon rugby game hardly more than two dozen people were in the grandstands.

When I mentioned the matter to a European expatriate (as all white people are called), he responded with a smile, "The favorite pastime here is not sports but arguing over property lines." He explained that property lines are not determined by survey charts or maps. Ownership of a piece of land may depend on whose ancestors cleared it, who planted this or that tree, or which clan one belongs to. "Our courts are full of these cases," he said.

Like many developing nations, the Solomon Islands are being hit hard by the world economic recession. Exports have declined. On top of it all is a population explosion. It is reported that 50% of the population is under 15.

Unlike some developing nations, the Solomon Islands are pro-Western in sentiment. The tilt toward the democratic nations may be traced in part to the rapport built up between American troops and the na-

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Winning His Spurs

By Dan B. McCarthy

During WWII, T/Sgt. Merv Ringlero was seated in a London pub when a GI with an Army Air Corps patch on his blouse sleeve walked up, friendly like and smiling, and asked:

"Do you remember me?"

Ringlero, when stationed at Fort Bliss, Texas, was a three-time champion light and heavyweight boxer. He couldn't readily place the airman. Was he from his former 7th Cavalry Regiment?

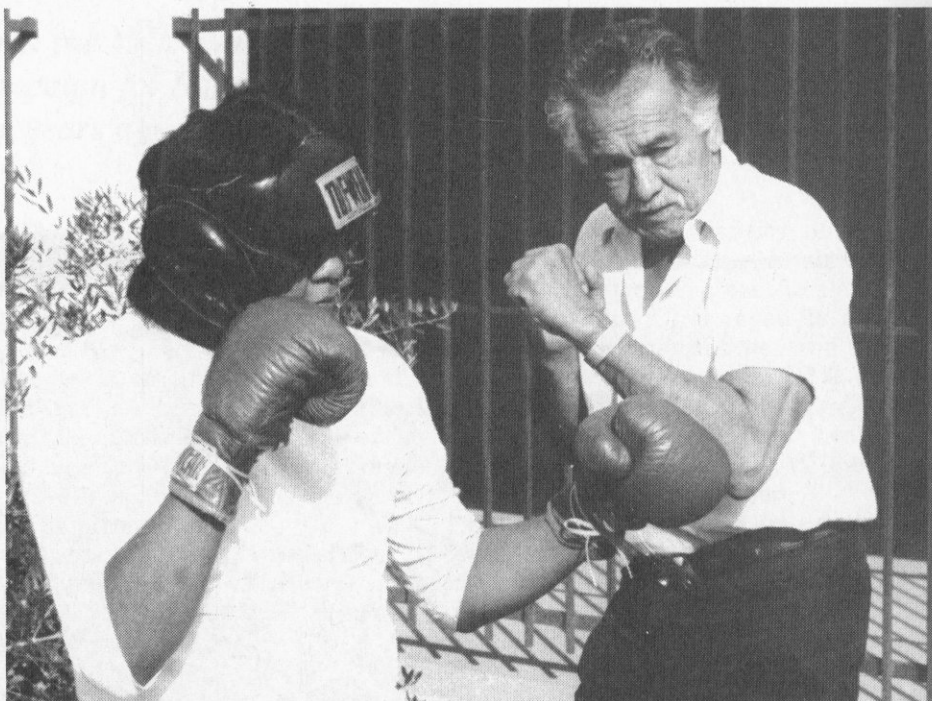
The airman said: "We were paired in a Fort Bliss bout two years ago. When the house lights dimmed as the first round began, I started cautiously toward the center of the ring, my guard up. You fancy-stepped your way toward me and the lights went out totally for me!"

Yes, then Ringlero remembered the bout. He knocked out his opponent in 22 seconds of the first round, quickest victory in some 30 military bouts.

"And that 22 seconds included the ten seconds the ref needed to count the knockdown and end the bout," said Ringlero recently at his saddlemaker's Indian community.

The two GIs swapped Stateside talk, mostly covering some of the Fort Bliss boxing cards, then went their ways.

For Ringlero, his successful rise at Fort Bliss to 1st Cavalry Division boxing champion (with three trophies to show for it), winner of a Bronze Star in the ETO and post-WWII master saddlemaker was not earned easily. He has made saddles for Gary Cooper, Audie Murphy,



"Keep your guard up," urges Merv Ringlero, who teaches Nelbert Whitman (left) and Rondell Ramon, young Indian boys training for Golden Gloves tournament.

James Arness, Rex Allen, Sr., and other western film stars. And more recently, Bruce Boxleitner of TV's "Scarecrow and Mrs. King."

"I was just about six when I hurt my leg helping my mother move things around at home," Ringlero began. "A heavy piece of metal I carried shifted, and I fell. The doctor told my father that I would be handicapped the rest of my life. I almost lost that right leg when infection set in, but it was caught in time."

"To begin with, I was a small kid who wanted so much to be an athlete when I grew up," said the native Arizonan, who in Army boxing rings was 6 feet 1½ inches tall and held his fighting weight around 175 to 185 pounds.

"While my leg was healing to full strength again, I made up my mind that I was going to build a strong body through the most strenuous sports. I chose football, boxing and riding my grandfather's horses across the desert."

His first amateur bout was in Golden Gloves action when he was 13, training with a cousin who boxed for the Phoenix Indian School team.

"Later, I went to Sherman Institute, an Indian boarding school near Riverside, Calif. We were in amateur bouts there, in Ontario, San Bernardino, even in Hollywood," Ringlero said.

While at Sherman for four years he and a few classmates also boxed in Burbank on cards sponsored by James J. Jeffries, the former world heavy weight champion who owned a training camp there. Most of the audiences included the Hollywood film set — actors, actresses, stuntmen, producers — the works.

"We were the favorites," the ex-cavalryman said. "They liked to watch the Indian boys box."

At Fort Bliss, Ringlero played several football seasons as an end with the 7th Regiment. "I wasn't good enough for the division team. Most of those guys were off college teams, some All-Americans, and a few pros were in service then as the military draft started."

Ringlero enlisted in the Army in October, 1940. "I didn't wait around for the draft. Even today I don't know what my draft number was. After my first pay day, I wrote home



very beautiful body configuration.

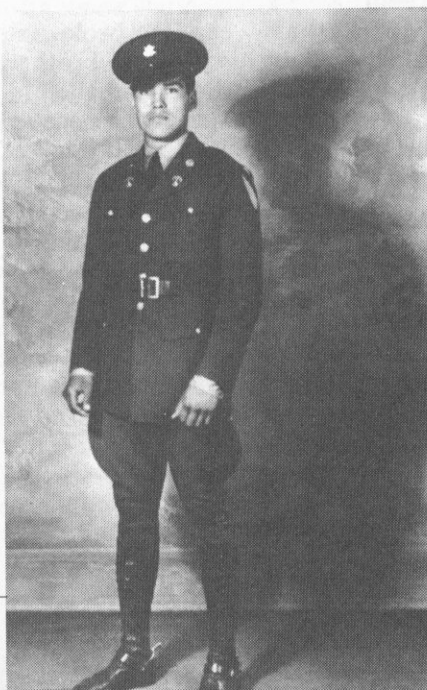
"Regretfully, I found out just how fast KayCeeMo was. One morning, during our regular grooming and exercising and learning to ride by commands — both rider and horse — our troop commander said:

" 'Now we're going into a simulated charge. Let the horses out. But don't let anybody pass me! ' "

"I was in the machine gun third platoon, way in the rear. At the command, Charge!, KayCeeMo started like a shot, passing troops. I couldn't bring him down. I had a few runaways as a kid on my grandfather's horses, and KayCeeMo was doing just that.

"I was sawing back and forth on the reins, foam and some blood flying all directions. But that horse just had to get in front of everybody. We went past the CO — ZIP! — and left him behind before I got my mount stopped.

"Later, the CO gave me three nights of extra guard duty on the picket line, watching the horses. Three nights in a row! That man took no excuses!" Ringlero exclaimed, just as if it happened yesterday and he was still peeved. He also remembered: "I was bawled out a lot in training for riding like I did on the reservation. Our instructor would bellow out, 'Quit trying to be a cowboy! You're in the Army now!'"



and told my folks that I was making \$21 dollars a day — once a month!"

Before Pearl Harbor, his Fort Bliss boxing press clippings increased. One from the El Paso Times reported:

"Big Merv Ringlero, Seventh Cavalry, won a TKO from J. Dziak, Division Artillery, in the light-heavyweight class after Dziak's back felt the canvas for a seven count in the first round, and for a moment in the second, the knockout round."

A Pima-Papago-Cahuilla Indian, now 69, Ringlero lives in semi-retirement in the little community of Santan about eight miles north of his shop in Sacaton with his wife, Rose, and their daughter, Aleta. Rose was a WAVE in WWII, working on Navy aircraft at Corpus Christi, Texas.

"When I began basic training in November, 1940, the 7th Cav and the entire 1st Division still rode horses. For the next 30 months I was assigned to a horse named Kansas City. I called him KayCeeMo and I loved that horse. It was the fastest horse in my troop and must have been a race horse at one time. Very narrow withers, sleek, shiny and

A cavalry recruit, Ringlero said, was not allowed to wear spurs on his boots until "he successfully completed the eight-weeks' basic training and earned them. It was a proud day when our names were called and we were told it was time to strap on our spurs!"

Ringlero remembers well the 1941 Army Red-Blue summer maneuvers in Louisiana. The horses were shipped via rail; the troops rode on the backs of the 6 X 6s.

"I was selected to go with a scouting patrol to locate and 'blow up' the fuel dump supplying Gen. Patton's tanks. We slipped through the enemy lines at night, made our simulated 'destruction,' and the referees scored it so, and Patton's tanks were shut down for a couple days."

After Pearl Harbor, the 7th was assigned to patrol along the Mexican Border, guarding bridges and railroad tracks against possible sabotage.

At about the time patrolling the border started becoming boresome, and U.S. troops were in action overseas, Ringlero said he was just about through with horses. The cavalry was going mechanized soon.

"A group of high-ranking officers arrived at the fort," he said, "looking for volunteers for hazardous duty. That's all I heard, but I turned my name in for an interview.

"I believe my boxing and football record at Fort Bliss has lots to do with my being among 62 men selected from the fort for the Army 1st Special Service Force being formed, which was to combine U.S. and Canadian troops." The new unit, a forerunner of the Army Rangers of WWII and later the Green Berets, gained fame as the "Devil's Brigade."

"I told my wife after the war, and anybody else who would listen to me, that I traded my spurs for a parachute. But I sure hated to leave KayCeeMo behind."

Enroute to Montana via train, where selected troops from all over the U.S. were gathering, Ringlero and another boxer were talking in a day coach. And he said: "Jess Wil-

lard, the retired world heavyweight boxing champion walked down the aisle toward us. Such a big fella — tall! Willard invited us back to his compartment. We talked boxing until we reached Salt Lake City and Willard got off. He was a real gentleman, a real winner."

Ringlero said the new Special Force troops were stationed near Helena. Training included parachute jumps, "where some of the guys washed out right there," demolition training, hand-to-hand fighting, house-to-house combat tactics, mountain climbing, skiing — the works. "My specialty after that course was the Browning Automatic Rifle (BAR)."

While at Geiger Field, Ringlero boxed again. A clipping in the *Spokesman-Review*, Spokane, had this lead: "Pvt. Mervin Ringlero, Geiger Field's latest heavyweight find."

Early in 1943, the First Special Service Force was ready for combat. "We were supposed to jump at Kiska in the western Aleutian Islands. We set out for our first mission against the enemy, but we got there and not one enemy troop was around. They had withdrawn. So we returned to the U.S., went by train to the East Coast, sailed for North Africa and made our first combat jump."

Action in southern France and Italy followed. Ringlero was among a handful of volunteers who fire-fought into Czechoslovakia to aid native partisans in skirmishes against the Nazis.

"We captured 15 Germans," he said, "and were awarded the Bronze Star."

After WWII ended, Ringlero was back in Phoenix, working in the N. Porter saddle shop. By 1951, he had settled in Los Angeles and worked in a shop for a saddlemaker he knew at Porter's in Phoenix. Ringlero opened his own shop in Los Angeles, in 1977, operating there until 1981 when he moved back to the Sacaton community.

About eight miles west of Sacaton is Casa Blanca, where Ira Hamilton

Hayes lived before his WWII service. On the Vah Ki Presbyterian Church grounds is a white brick memorial with a flagpole on top. The bronze plaque reads:

"In tribute to Corporal Ira Hamilton Hayes, USMC, Co. 2, 2nd Battalion, 28th Regiment, for his heroic action in the flag raising on Mt. Suribachi, Iwo Jima, Feb. 23, 1944, WWII, B. Jan. 12, 1923, D. Jan. 24, 1955."

By 1951, he had settled in Los Angeles and worked in a shop for a saddlemaker he knew at Porter's in Phoenix. Ringlero opened his own shop in Los Angeles, in 1977, operating there until 1981.

In the churchyard Ringlero said: "Ira is buried in Arlington National Cemetery in Washington. I knew him when we were around here years before we joined up. He was about six years younger than I, but my younger brothers and cousins and their friends used to get me to play in their pickup baseball and football games. Ira was running with them."

When the Korean War broke out, Ringlero said his younger brother, Kearney, tried to enlist in the Marines. He was turned back because he was a little short of an inch of meeting regulation minimum height.

"Kearney came over to the saddle shop, very disappointed, and Ira, who used to visit our shop now and then, walked in and heard of Kearney's troubles. Ira went back with Kearney to the recruiting center. A couple hours later they returned and Kearney was in the Marines," Ringlero said.

In Korean combat, Kearney was awarded the Purple Heart and two clusters, the Silver Star and Navy Cross, and he received a battlefield

commission.

In his Sacaton saddleshop, Ringlero recalled some highlights of 30 years of his craft in Southern California. He began with Audie Murphy, the most decorated GI of WWII.

"About 1952 or so I made a fancy saddle for Audie Murphy. He used to come into the shop on weekends with Guy Mitchell, a singer and actor. They'd ride out back in the little arena where people tried our new saddles. Some of the movie stuntmen customers practiced trick riding, things like that."

A favorite movie star who was the most like parts he played in westerns was Gary Cooper. He didn't say much either, like Murphy, but one Monday he came into the shop and said he needed a plain working saddle, nothing fancy, to take with him Wednesday when he had to leave for Mexico for the filming of "Vera Cruz." The saddle was ready when Gary Cooper came for it. There was a good closeup of it in the early scenes of the movie but that was all.

Just what highlight from his past, Ringlero was asked, emerges as a fondest memory. His response came without hesitation:

"I remember a day in 1941 when a special formation was called by Maj. Gen. Innis P. Swift, then 1st Cavalry Division commander at Fort Bliss. The band was out. They played our 7th Regiment battle song, 'Garry Owen,' that dates back to when Gen. Custer commanded the 7th at Little Big Horn."

"As he presented me with the first championship boxing trophy that I had won in the military and the tournament Sportsmanship Trophy, he said to the hundreds of cavalrymen on the parade ground: 'This man is a credit to the Army. We should have more like him.'"

"After the formation ended," Ringlero recalled, "I walked away with some of my Indian buddies from the Phoenix area. Their congratulations were very special, for one of them said, 'Oh, you've just made all of us so proud that an Indian boy got such honors today!'"

1987-88 Will Be Great

If the enthusiasm of Department Senior Vice Commanders and Adjutants Quartermasters is any indication, the 1987-88 year may go down as one of the most notable in VFW annals.

As Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief Earl L. Stock, who is expected to be elected Commander-in-Chief at the 88th National Convention in New Orleans, detailed his plans for the period to them at their Kansas City conference last spring, they pledged their support to him in the coming year.

Stock urged them, as Department Commanders, to work with persons in their Departments who have had experience in the past, and they will be helpful if they are asked.

"Our administration will do everything next year to work with you," he said. "I am counting on you as a group. I know your capabilities."

Expressing confidence that next year will be a successful one, Jr. Vice Commander-in-Chief Larry W. Rivers said he is "proud to be part of your team because it will be a team effort if the VFW is to have another winning year."

Rivers said that achieving the Department Commander's cap gives a person more responsibility than he has had ever before, and each Senior Vice Commander has been elected to that office because of leadership ability.

Executive Director Cooper T. Holt, of the VFW Washington Office, warned that the coming year will be a difficult one for veterans' programs and that the VFW will have to work even harder to assure that they will not be eroded by anti-veteran elements in the government.

National Legislative Director James Magill said the VFW will continue to fight for exemption of veterans' programs from Gramm-Rudman-Hollings provisions.

He also reviewed gains in several areas of veterans' benefits that have been made in recent months, such as in improvements of provisions for



Sr. Vice Commander-in-Chief Earl L. Stock outlines features of upcoming year.

former prisoners of war.

Kenneth L. Steadman, VFW director of National Security and Foreign Affairs, said American foreign policy has been paralyzed by the arms for hostages revelations.

"Our foreign policy is hostage to popular appeal," he said. "This year we have got to get the country moving again, get back to basic common sense. We can lose our freedom if our foreign and defense policy fails."

VFW-PAC Director Charles Ball said the purpose of the political action arm is to create better informed voters who will be able to make their decisions for whom to vote on election day on the basis of candidates' records on veterans' and national security issues.

"No one is going to look out for veterans except ourselves," he said. "It is all of us working together that can make a difference."

Dr. Theodore Wilson III, executive

director of the VFW National Home, said the facility near Eaton Rapids, Mich., should be thought of as a small town with problems of street repair, sewage disposal and other city services as any other community.

"But my life is serving other people's children," he continued. "My message is simple: the children and needy families of this membership need a spot on your list of priorities."

During the two-day sessions, Quartermaster Gen. Herbert W. Irwin discussed the financial status of the organization, members of his staff explained a variety of services to veterans through member benefits' programs.

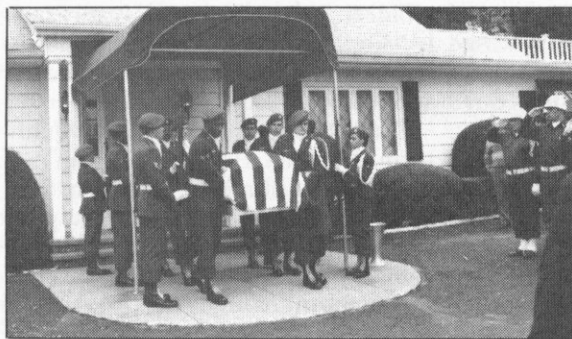
In addition, directors of programs, such as membership, administered by Adjutant Gen. Howard E. Vander Clute's staff, explained next year's emphasis and linked membership increases with intensified program activity. ■

A Hero Comes Home



Post 5491 Bugler Walter Kelley sounds Taps at conclusion of Sgt. Todd's funeral.

It was a somber occasion for Post 5491, Mahopac, N.Y., when it took part in the services for Sgt. William A. Todd, missing in action in Southeast Asia since 1972. His remains and those of 12 others were returned and identified at the Central Identification Laboratory in Honolulu. The plane carrying Todd, on his second Vietnam tour, and the other 12 was shot down over Laos. Todd, whose hometown was Mahopac, was buried in a Mahopac cemetery. A three-day period of mourning was proclaimed in the Putnam County town. Commander George R. Morrow, of Post 5491, writes: "We of Post 5491 are very proud of the part we played in honoring Sgt. Todd. Our efforts continue in the hope of having all those listed as missing in action in Southeast Asia to be accounted for."



Air Force honor guard carries Sgt. Todd's flag-draped casket from the funeral home.



Putnam County Commander Ed Duncan at the funeral home. Joining Post 5491's color guard are those from McGuire Air Force Base and other VFW, American Legion, and VVA Posts and a National Guard unit.

It has been a busy year for the VFW, as these pictures demonstrate.



Past Commander-in-Chief Timothy Murphy opens his veins for the quarterly blood drive of Post 3233, Sarasota, Fla. Waiting their turns are Post Commander Lester Helmich, Post Chaplain Jack Listman, Past Post Commander William Chalone and Past Auxiliary President Mary Schole.



National President Rosemary Mazer, of the Ladies Auxiliary, and Commander-in-Chief Norman G. Staab pose with Tony Voyles, this year's March of Dimes poster boy.



Past Commander-in-Chief Joseph L. Vicites chats with four members of Post 5286 at a commemoration of the 45th anniversary of Pearl Harbor. They are Past Post Commander Carl Zappa, Post Commander Albert Tobias, Past Post Commander and QM Joseph Marcella and the Post's first Commander, John J. Bartolon, who was at Pearl Harbor.



Sr. Vice Commander-in-Chief Earl L. Stock meets Brig. Gen. Jack Ferguson at McGuire AFB, N.J. Ferguson briefed him on the Air Force Reserve mission at the base. Left is Rep. Jim Saxton and Commander Otto Gollon, of the Department of New Jersey, is right.



Commander-in-Chief Norman G. Staab presents the VFW Distinguished Service Medal to Henry Kuniyuki, who recently retired after serving 23 years as Hawaii's adjutant.

America in Paris

By Robert L. Whitbread

The situations confronted by a VFW Post Commander in Paris are different from those of his colleagues in the United States.

Many demands are placed on him as a semi-official representative of the U.S. in a foreign capital, and there are impressive moments, some deeply poignant experiences and some hilarious diversions.

A few years ago Prof. Paul Rin, who had served in a French unit of Patton's 3rd Army in WWII, persuaded Mayor Jacques Chirac and the Municipal Council to name a square in Paris in honor of Gen. George S. Patton, Jr. Along with Brig. Gen. Patte, U.S. defense and military attache, and Paris Post 605 member, I attended two meetings in City Hall to prepare the inauguration ceremony.

We invited Maj. Gen. George S. Patton, the general's son and Post 605 member, to attend the ceremony. He could not, but his daughter, Margaret, would represent the family. So far, so good.

When the Inauguration Day came up on July 4, I was standing in the immense crowd of American veterans and French dignitaries. Suddenly, like a bolt from the blue, a high-ranking official from City Hall tapped me on the shoulder and said I was appointed chairman of the ceremony. This was a monumental surprise for me and a prodigious honor for the VFW. Despite my qualms, everything went off fine, as Mayor Chirac and U.S. Ambassador Hartman delivered stirring speeches.

Sometimes miracles do happen. I was contacted by a French gendarme who decided upon retirement that he wanted to see an American flyer whose life he had saved in WWII. The plane had crashed in the French Ardennes district, and the local peasants had hidden George Sorensen until the German search parties had given up. Then

they contacted gendarme Robert Aubry who was active in the Resistance. He smuggled George out of the country. In 1945, they exchanged a few letters and then lost touch. Almost 40 years later, Aubry asked me to locate George to invite him to visit the gendarme in his home in France.

The letter to the wartime address was returned. I thought he may have stayed in the vicinity of his home city of Lincoln, Neb. So I wrote Commander John Stuert, of Post 10617 in Lincoln, and asked him to check for us, and he found our missing airman in Lincoln. So now these two wartime friends are looking forward to a reunion in the area where George was shot down.

Linking French men and women with Americans they knew in World War II is a frequent task.

Other requests of this nature were not as successful. A Frenchwoman wrote me that she would like to find the handsome, young American soldier who was invited into her home in Normandy in December, 1944. She was 10 then. She would sit on his lap as he fed her chocolate. His name was Mickey, and she thought he may have been a Texan. Could I help to locate him? She had no address or other information, so I could do little. You can't win them all.

A dramatic event took place when numerous peace demonstrations erupted all over Europe with Soviet encouragement. I organized a pa-

rade on the Champs Elysees with WWII jeeps and command cars manned by Frenchmen dressed in GI uniforms from that era. This demonstration was set for the day the flame on the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at the Arch of Triumph is rekindled. Ambassador Galbraith agreed to lay a wreath for Post 605 and to rekindle the flame. A Marine Honor Guard from the American Embassy stood at the tomb. Hundreds of French veterans came with their flags.

In the morning, Col. Charles Ray, a Post member and assistant military attache, was shot and killed by a terrorist. This news stunned us, for Col. Ray was a fine man, a loving husband and father of two children.

Under the circumstances, I felt we had to do something to honor his memory. I asked the French colonel in charge of the ceremonies if we could lay a wreath in remembrance of Col. Ray. He replied that it was against regulations, but added that if we did it, he would look the other way. I immediately telephoned the embassy and asked the ambassador to lay the wreath with me. He accepted.

This event was filmed by all three national American TV networks and telecast all over the U.S. It will forever be engraved in our hearts.

On one occasion, returning to Paris by car with a French veteran after commemorating the June 6, 1944, landings in Normandy, my French comrade spotted a large creamery that made the famous Camembert cheese and asked me to stop to buy some cheese wholesale.

He did all the talking — in broken French with an American accent. He obviously wanted a special favor, maybe even free cheese. We both bought a bagful of Camembert. Back in Paris, I found the prices there and in the Norman grocery store were the same.

In the winter of 1984 the French government was planning to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the Allied landings in Normandy. All of Europe was quivering in expectancy, wondering if President Reagan would show up. I organized a dinner in Paris with the chairman of the Landings Commemoration Committee as speaker. At the end of his speech, he mentioned President Reagan as one of the VIPs who would be present. A free-lance reporter rushed directly to a wire service after the dinner and sent the news out to the world. The VFW had provided the

The Post also decorated a Frenchman who distinguished himself in the Resistance in eastern France. He was in high school when the Nazis occupied his country. One night he sneaked by the guards and shinnied up the flagpole in front of a German command post and took down the flag. This feat created an uproar, but the Germans never learned who performed it. He automatically joined the Resistance.

It came as a surprise when an American, Mrs. Catherine Potter, was proposed for a medal. Her story amazed me. She married a French

press campaign all over France to contact any Frenchmen or Vietnamese who had any information about U.S. POW/MIAs. The French had gone through the same experience as Americans, but the only remaining servicemen they uncovered were deserters who returned to France after an amnesty law was passed. A few months ago another article on this subject was published in the national press, but it proved fruitless. Efforts will continue as long as the American missing people remain unaccounted for.

The Commander of Post 605 cooperates frequently with the superintendents of U.S. military cemeteries in Europe. They are all veterans. Most are VFW members. Brig. Gen. John Donaldson, a member of Post 605, is the officer-in-charge. His leadership provides the inspiration indispensable to doing an outstanding job. A constant stream of visitors, both American and European, come to these hallowed final resting places.

A Post member is a former Chetnik who at 15 volunteered to serve with Gen. Drazha Mihailovich, the Yugoslav resistance leader, who fought the Nazis in WWII. He and his men rescued about 500 American airmen who were shot down in Yugoslavia.

Abandoned by the U.S. and Britain in favor of Tito's Communist Partisans, Gen. Mihailovich was tried and executed by the Communists who had taken over the country. The rescued American airmen unsuccessfully tried to persuade the U.S. government to erect a statue in Washington to the Chetnik leader, but this gesture failed. ■

About the Author:

Robert L. Whitbread, an American who has lived in Paris for several years, is Commander of Post 605.



Ceremonial functions are important in Paris. In this one, Commander Robert L. Whitbread, of Post 605, presents U.S. Ambassador Joe M. Rodgers with the Post's Medal of Honor and the French Senate President Alain Poher with a Statue of Liberty plaque on behalf of then Commander-in-Chief John S. Staum. The occasion was the first public ceremony in France commemorating the 100th anniversary of the statue, a gift of the French people.

beat.

From time to time, Post 605 awards medals to Frenchmen who served in the WWII Resistance. Some of their achievements stand out vividly. For example, one was a woman, who served as a lieutenant in the Free French Forces, who was captured by the Germans in Paris some time before the Normandy landings. The Gestapo tortured her, but she refused to talk. Finally deported to Buchenwald, she survived in order to be liberated by the Americans.

count, Charles Benoit d'Azy, just before WWII. On their vast estate in Mougins on the French Riviera, a hunting lodge in a remote, wooded area became a hiding place for men and women sought by the Nazis. She saved the lives of almost 100 persons, hid arms and war material for the resistance and transported the weapons in her car. Despite rumors, the Gestapo failed to find evidence against her, although she had joined a Resistance network in 1942.

As early as 1983, I launched a

April and May Commanders-of-the-Month

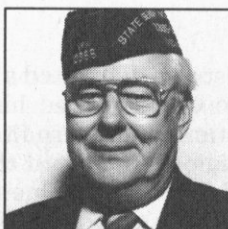
DEPARTMENT



DIV. I
Illinois
Edward Trennert (6)
(April and May)



DIV. II
Florida
George T. Kelley (3)
(April and May)



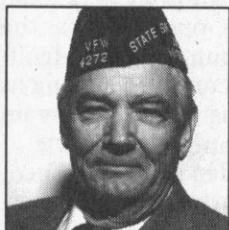
DIV. III
Indiana
Leo Reller (5)
(April and May)



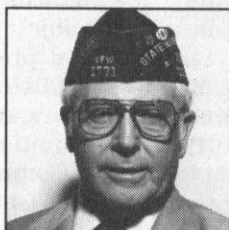
DIV. IV
Maryland
Newman T. Braaten (9)
(April and May)



DIV. V
Nebraska
C.C. Blankinship (9)
(April and May)



DIV. VI
Mississippi
A.O. Cummings (7)
(April and May)



DIV. VII
Colorado
Darrell D. Elliott (9)
(April and May)



DIV. VIII
North Dakota
Kent Anderson (2)
(April)



DIV. VIII
South Carolina
George A. Bopp
(May)



DIV. IX
Vermont
Merritt Edwards (6)
(April and May)



DIV. X
Delaware
Joseph L. Eckrich, Sr. (8)
(April and May)



DIV. XI
Hawaii
Frank A. Candalisa (4)
(April and May)

District

DIV. I
District 21
Pennsylvania
Robert L. Snyder (2)
(April and May)

DIV. II
District 20
Texas
Arthur W. Pope (3)
(April and May)

DIV. III
District 17
California
John D. Smith (5)
(April)

DIV. III
District 6
Illinois
Rick Frank
(May)

DIV. IV
District 13
Michigan
Gordon Bachman (6)
(April)

DIV. IV
District 19
Florida
Wallace O. Richardson
(May)

DIV. V
District 13
Mississippi
Roy Colston (9)
(April and May)

DIV. VI
District 18
Kentucky
Kenneth Bailey
(April)

DIV. VI
District 7
Missouri
Earl Roberts
(May)

DIV. VII
District 7
Texas
Donald L. Harwood (2)
(April and May)

DIV. VIII
District 17
Maryland
Joseph W. Nassar (6)
(April and May)

DIV. IX
District 3
Arkansas
Bobby Hoggard (3)
(April and May)

DIV. X
District 2
Europe
Charles E. Van Houten (2)
(April)

DIV. X
District 27
Texas
Johnny J. Sotelo (2)
(May)

(Figure in parentheses indicates number of times Commander has won this honor.)

Post

DIV. I Post 1146 Michigan LeRoy Nicholson (2) (April and May)	DIV. II Post 112 Kansas Blair Page (5) (April and May)	DIV. III Post 3962 Mississippi John Graham (8) (April)	DIV. III Post 10209 Florida William E. Short (May)	DIV. IV Post 2562 Maryland Tomas F. Bunting (8) (April and May)	DIV. V Post 8463 Florida Nicholas A. Duva (5) (April and May)
DIV. VI Post 3784 Louisiana James E. Westbrook (4) (April and May)	DIV. VII Post 8510 Minnesota John L. Shalloe (9) (April and May)	DIV. VIII Post 2872 Georgia Harold L. Forrester (2) (April)	DIV. VIII Post 1837 Texas Lonnie McIntosh (2) (May)	DIV. IX Post 5483 North Carolina Franklin G. Hawkins (2) (April)	DIV. IX Post 6012 Texas Ira Parks, Jr. (May)
DIV. X Post 9650 California John A. Grimes III (2) (April and May)	DIV. XI Post 5951 Louisiana Sylvain L. Duet (6) (April)	DIV. XI Post 8564 Texas Joseph Pacheco (May)	DIV. XII Post 10524 Puerto Rico Juan Gautier (4) (April and May)	DIV. XIII Post 811 California Jessie E. Bunn (2) (April and May)	DIV. XIV Post 1298 Kentucky Edward Liggett (4) (April)
DIV. XIV Post 993 Virginia Thomas S. Watson (May)	DIV. XV Post 4517 Arkansas Milam Seal (5) (April and May)	DIV. XVI Post 7108 Texas John Adams (7) (April and May)	DIV. XVII Post 10427 Texas Joseph Schumaker (8) (April and May)	DIV. XVIII Post 4976 Mississippi Billy Palmer (9) (April and May)	DIV. XIX Post 9849 Texas William E. Nichols (2) (April)
DIV. XIX Post 5562 Alaska Dan Wisner (2) (May)	DIV. XX Post 1319 Oklahoma James Schutte (8) (April)	DIV. XX Post 5783 West Virginia Wilbur C. Bonnett (May)			

Posts of 1,000 Members or More

Recorded as of June 8, 1987

Post Place No.	Location	1986-87 Membership
1 1114	Evansville, IN	4286
2 3579	Park Ridge, IL	2836
3 628	Sioux Falls, SD	2676
4 5555	Richfield, MN	2649
5 1146	St. Clair Shores, MI	2612
6 2539	Gulfport, MS	2284
7 1308	Alton, IL	2277
8 360	Mishawaka, IN	2211
9 47	Uniontown, PA	2210
10 1064	Huntington, WV	2188
11 1273	Rapid City, SD	2177
12 49	Mobile, AL	2133
13 1296	Bloomington, MN	2118
14 6506	Rosedale, MD	2089
15 131	Lincoln, NE	2080
16 3382	Kingsport, TN	1948
17 401	Albuquerque, NM	1939
18 8541	San Antonio, TX	1935
19 6704	Mechanicsburg, PA	1906
20 5263	Fort Sill, OK	1901
21 969	Tacoma, WA	1883
22 2290	Manville, NJ	1873
23 283	Kingston, PA	1870
24 249	Butler, PA	1854
25 112	Wichita, KS	1836
26 379	Yakima, WA	1828
27 6975	Bristol, VA	1787
28 1275	Lima, OH	1768
29 4057	Tupelo, MS	1746
30 2503	Omaha, NE	1730
31 6640	Metairie, LA	1669
32 549	Tucson, AZ	1686
33 1599	Chambersburg, PA	1683
34 1079	Elyria, OH	1669
35 2704	South Omaha, NE	1668
36 2100	Everett, WA	1660
37 9619	Morningside, MD	1650
38 1650	Topeka, KS	1645
39 573	Clarksburg, WV	1623
40 7330	Oakville, CT	1615
41 367	Joliet, IL	1613
42 1989	Indiana, PA	1607
43 1736	Alexandria, LA	1605
44 1	Denver, CO	1598
44 641	Columbia, SC	1598
46 7987	New Port Richey, FL	1549
47 4372	Odessa, TX	1547
48 5632	St. Louis Park, MN	1538
49 6796	Dallas, TX	1530
50 3962	Corinth, MS	1528
51 7119	Indianapolis, IN	1528
52 3851	Carmi, IL	1515
53 1003	Jefferson City, MO	1491
54 1432	Salina, KS	1484
55 4087	Davison, MI	1479
56 1621	Janesville, WI	1472
57 9223	Arlington, CA	1470
58 6874	Lemon Grove, CA	1464
59 891	Asheville, NC	1461
60 2529	Sandusky, OH	1451
60 5225	West Memphis, AR	1451
62 7175	Millington, TN	1442
63 10209	Spring Hill, FL	1440
63 2702	Huntsville, AL	1440
65 6251	Cheektowaga, NY	1439
66 3777	Festus, MO	1436
66 2012	Abilene, TX	1436
66 1590	Daytona Beach, FL	1436
69 4848	Chattanooga, TN	1434
69 1000	Independence, MO	1434
71 2940	West Seneca, NY	1432
72 2754	West View, PA	1431
73 9400	Sunnyslope, AZ	1428
74 1810	Brentwood, PA	1424
75 447	Albert Lea, MN	1413
76 4903	Tucson, AZ	1409
77 832	South Portland, ME	1402
78 295	South St. Paul, MN	1392
79 1857	Oklahoma City, OK	1384
80 972	Terre Haute, IN	1368
81 23	Lebanon, PA	1366
82 6827	St. Petersburg, FL	1353
82 9186	San Antonio, TX	1353
84 1865	Kenosha, WI	1351
85 501	Denver, CO	1349
86 762	Fargo, ND	1347
86 53	Jamestown, NY	1347
88 3838	Cape Girardeau, MO	1339
89 2199	Joliet, IL	1337
90 137	Duluth, MN	1330
90 428	Saint Cloud, MN	1330
90 6896	Detroit, MI	1330
93 1990	Greeneville, TN	1300
94 733	Mason City, IA	1299
95 2346	Saugus, MA	1295
96 5206	Hendersonville, NC	1286
97 668	Birmingham, AL	1284
98 3790	Logansport, IN	1275
98 1475	Amarillo, TX	1275
100 1216	Austin, MN	1266
101 1536	Sayre, PA	1261
102 9191	Killeen, TX	1259
103 4809	Norfolk, VA	1241
103 1639	Willmar, MN	1241
105 4051	Colorado Spings, CO	1235
106 589	Hazleton, PA	1228
107 2562	Silver Spring, MD	1226
108 305	Eau Claire, WI	1221
109 1120	Indianapolis, IN	1213
109 1115	Hillsville, VA	1213
111 4488	Grenada, MS	1204
112 9083	Baltimore, MD	1201
113 8919	El Paso, TX	1197
114 2111	Chula Vista, CA	1195
115 9972	Sierra Vista, AZ	1189
116 1863	Solon, OH	1187
116 1848	Jackson, TN	1187
118 1271	Central Falls, RI	1181
119 2640	Wallington, NJ	1178
119 6240	Russell, KS	1178
121 4075	Frankfort, KY	1176
122 9337	Gastonia, NC	1169
122 3376	Ephrata, PA	1169
124 1435	Spokane, WA	1168
125 639	Malden, MA	1165
126 7686	Alamogordo, NM	1161
127 788	Cedar Rapids, IA	1155
128 2093	Orlando, FL	1154
129 1326	Bismarck, ND	1151
129 4256	Madeira Beach, FL	1151
129 6694	Dundalk, MD	1151
132 577	Tulsa, OK	1150
133 7069	Clarks Summit, PA	1145
134 3074	Lexington, NC	1141
135 5108	Marietta, OH	1125
135 1693	New Albany, IN	1125
137 2130	Lake Charles, LA	1122
138 425	Hopkins, MN	1108
138 2785	Albany, GA	1108
140 3368	Mt. Pleasant, PA	1106
141 155	Johnstown, PA	1105
142 1474	Spokane, WA	1101
143 1154	Lafayette, IN	1100
144 755	Springfield, IL	1095
145 2496	Alpena, MI	1092
145 1201	Ponca City, OK	1092
145 2743	Norwalk, OH	1092
145 1383	Klamath Falls, OR	1092
149 1720	Grand Rapids, MN	1090
149 2148	Waco, TX	1090
151 8463	Cape Coral, FL	1089
152 3982	Santa Clara, CA	1083
153 3233	Sarasota, FL	1078
154 5064	McMinnville, TN	1077
155 905	Gardner, MA	1076
156 2466	Lubbock, TX	1075
157 3892	Harker Heights, TX	1062
158 5220	Oak Lawn, IL	1057
159 950	Mankato, MN	1054
159 3023	Grand Rapids, MI	1054
161 3935	Port Hueneme, CA	1053
162 3042	Laurel, MS	1050
162 5266	Morristown, TN	1050
164 191	Canonsburg, PA	1049
164 696	Owensboro, KY	1049
166 1087	Great Falls, MT	1047
167 4699	Sayreville, NJ	1046
167 6712	Revere, MA	1046
169 1944	Puente, CA	1043
170 1212	Parkersburg, WV	1043
171 2866	St. Charles, MO	1042
172 145	Bridgeport, CT	1041
172 943	Ashtabula, OH	1041
174 1069	Fairfield, OH	1028
175 8795	Adamstown, PA	1027
176 701	Lansing, MI	1021
177 1644	Norfolk, NE	1020
178 10097	Ft. Myers Beach, FL	1019
178 1386	Kingston, NY	1019
180 3553	Chester, IL	1018
180 9969	Del City, OK	1018
180 3160	Norfolk, VA	1018
183 167	Charlottesville, VA	1017
184 2057	Rocky Mount, NC	1016
185 673	Jasper, IN	1014
186 924	Annis, AL	1011
186 6590	Wrightstown, NJ	1011
188 3784	Baton Rouge, LA	1009
189 1936	Hagerstown, MD	1008
190 753	Minot, ND	1007
191 9625	Coon Rapids, MN	1006
192 2149	Bensenville, IL	1005
192 2179	Middletown, NJ	1005
192 5065	Sheridan, MI	1005
195 2867	Garfield, NJ	1004
196 9625	El Reno, OK	1000

Order of Parade

NATIONAL AVERAGE — 100.83%

1 HAWAII	106.42	15 Nebraska	101.999	29 Arkansas	100.55	43 Tennessee	100.10
2 Pacific Area	105.35	16 Virginia	101.997	30 Louisiana	100.53	44 Nevada	100.05
3 Florida	104.48	17 Michigan	101.82	31 New Jersey	100.52	45 New Mexico	100.04
4 Delaware	104.01	18 Indiana	101.73	32 Wisconsin	100.50	46 New York	99.30
5 Colorado	103.29	19 Maryland	101.69	33 North Dakota	100.48	47 Maine	98.76
6 Panama Canal	103.25	20 Oregon	101.36	34 New Hampshire	100.44	48 Iowa	98.49
7 South Carolina	102.84	21 Missouri	101.32	35 Minnesota	100.30	49 Massachusetts	98.37
8 Vermont	102.83	22 Rhode Island	101.29	36 West Virginia	100.27	50 Montana	97.97
9 Arizona	102.68	23 Kansas	101.10	37 South Dakota	100.26	51 District of Columbia	96.72
10 Kentucky	102.52	24 Idaho	100.99	38 Alabama	100.20	52 Utah	96.12
11 California	102.49	25 Texas	100.96	39 Connecticut	100.17	53 Alaska	83.33
12 Oklahoma	102.42	26 Illinois	100.94	40 Wyoming	100.15	54 Europe	71.01
13 Mississippi	102.11	27 Ohio	100.76	41 Washington	100.12		
14 Georgia	102.10	28 North Carolina	100.65	42 Pennsylvania	100.11		

Standings are based on per capita tax transmittals received at National Headquarters through June 30.

National Aides-de-Camp, Recruiting Class

The following VFW members have distinguished themselves by qualifying for the National Aides-de-Camp, Recruiting Class Award. To be eligible for this award, a member must collect the dues of at least 50 new and/or reinstated members.

J. Huey Ford, Jr., Post 4470, Uniontown, Ala.; Anthony J. Alarcon, Post 4061, Canon City, Colo.; Don Scagel, Post 9929, West Hartford, Conn.; E. Scott Minnix, Post 2185, Panama City, Fla.; Charles R. Shaffner, Post 10097, Ft. Myers Beach, Fla.; Walter A. Jackson, Post 10141, Palma Sola, Fla.; George J. Tamraz, Post 10167, Holiday, Fla.; Jarold K. Stottlemire, Post 5110, Karlsruhe, Germany; Bob Morgan, Post 1376, Mt. Vernon, Ill.; Joseph W. Nassar, Post 5627, College Park, Md.; Robert W. Turner, Post 5988, Bourne, Mass.; Joseph Fortunato, Post 453, Union City, N.J.; James Sackel, Post 10185, Toms River, N.J.; Edwin C. Howard, Post 5483, Mars Hill, N.C.; William Bevan, Jr., Post 1445, New Philadelphia, Ohio; Frank Finch, Post 3288, Brookville, Ohio; Jack E. Stabley, Post 5865, York, Pa.; John Talbert, Post 641, Columbia, S.C.; Ray Covington, Post 1970, Nashville, Tenn.; Kenneth A. Gardner, Post 6012, San Antonio, Texas; John W. Reid, Post 3586, Salt Lake City, Utah; Walter F. Collins, Post 4809, Norfolk, Va.; Elster K. Hurley, Post 6975, Bristol, Va.; Robert Rose, Post 1651, Pasco, Wash.; Russell Smith, Post 7330, Oakville, Conn.; Francis Bagarella, Post 7330, Oakville, Conn.; Esteban M. Beruvides, Post 10212, Miami, Fla.; Dean Summers, Post 9284, Elk Grove, Ill.; William H. Flaherty, Post

2140, Long Branch, N.J.; Dick McMahon, Post 2169, Millville, N.J.; Raymond H. Fisher, Post 6059, Pattenburg, N.J.; Robert E. Spoonley, Post 2940, West Seneca, N.Y.; William Morse, Post 1480, Kerrville, Texas; Bill Williams, Post 2137, Azle, Texas; Joe B. Abney, Post 4820, Port Neches, Texas; Antonio A. Garcia, Ralph E. Raby, Jones D. Mingus, Archie M. Overbeck and Charles D. Schaeffer, Post 8541, San Antonio, Texas; Bernard Krueger, Post 755, Springfield, Ill.; Sanford Rosenthal, Post 3586, Salt Lake City, Utah; John Carapelotti, Post 10182, Winslow Township, N.J.; James E. Westbrook, Post 3784, Baton Rouge, La.; Raymond P. Nowosatko, Post 5120, Detroit, Mich.; Magnus O. Meyer, Post 837, San Antonio, Texas; James F. Roof, Sr., Post 3246, Mountain Home, Ark.; Harry A. Stone, Post 5059, Turlock, Calif.; Dorr M. Campbell, Post 8737, San Bernardino, Calif.; Herbert Purvis, Post 2380, DeLand, Fla.; Ron Lambdin, Post 7084, Union City, Ind.; Mark E. Bramlett, Post 4588, Bossier City, La.; Emerson Minnie, Post 7541, Mancelona, Mich.; John Shalloe and Ronald H. Backstrom, Post 8510, Hibbing, Minn.; H. Allen Tyrrell, Post 280, Columbia, Mo.; Jerry Lynxwiler, Post 3485, Doniphan, Mo.; Harry E. Griffin, Post 7072, Ruidoso, N.M.; Gordon L. Morrow, Post 419, Girard, Ohio; Buddy J. Tyner, Post 1320, Sapulpa, Okla.; L.L. Schoenerberger, Post 5382, Sciota, Pa.; Magnus O. Meyer, Post 837, San Antonio, Texas; Don Harwood, Post 6794, Brownfield, Texas; C.O. Wooley, Post 6524, Kilgore, Texas; Lucian Merritt, Jr., Post 4667, Marion,

Va.; Odis D. Clayton, Post 924, Anniston, Ala.; Flauzell Johnson, Post 811, Marina, Calif.; David E. Terwilliger, James S. Forsythe and Kenneth L. Stevens, Post 9223, Riverside, Calif.; Joseph A. Kitt, Post 10093, Safety Harbor, Fla.; Guy C. Murphy and Merle C. Walston, Post 1590, Daytona Beach, Fla.; Harold C. Robertson, Post 3492, Fairfield, Ala.; William Cowley, Post 4089, Temecula, Calif.; John W. Fisher, Post 2111, Chula Vista, Calif.; John M. Warner, Post 4851, San Diego, Calif.; Ray Walton, Post 819, San Leandro, Calif.; Richard P. Belknap, Post 9650, Anderson, Calif.; Randell Johnson, Post 5149, Rockford, Ill.; Paul J. McCray, Post 5829, Whitesburg, Ky.; John Hightower, Post 3791, Flint, Mich.; Arthur Gordon, Post 6805, Browns Mills, N.J.; William C. Kort, Post 8745, Whiting, N.J.; Robert Page, Post 478, Binghamton, N.Y.; Louis D. Kenney, Post 524, Corning, N.Y.; Norman L. Worley and Thomas E. Bush, Post 2012, Abilene, Texas; Virgil T. Akins, Post 7074, Freeburg, Ill.; Robert A. Jones, Post 1596, Lombard, Ill.; Francis DiLeo, Post 3273, Cambridge, Mass.; Frank Tomasek, Post 2704, South Omaha, Neb.; Rocco Bollotta, Post 6590, Wrightstown, N.J.; Shaun Magee, Post 2179, Port Monmouth, N.J.; Frederick Young, Jr. and Leroy McCullough, Post 6018, Fayetteville, N.C.; Patricia G. Campbell, Post 3656, Bristow, Okla.; Joseph S. Smith, Jr., Post 3433, Ladson, S.C.; Joseph C. Schumaker, Post 10427, Cedar Park, Texas; James E. Felty, Post 6975, Bristol, Va., and James M. Burkhart, Post 1212, Parkersburg, W. Va.

Century Award Winners

The following VFW members have distinguished themselves by qualifying for the Century Award. To be eligible for this award, a member must collect the dues of at least 100 new and/or reinstated members.

James Lewis, Post 9650, Anderson, Calif.; Jarold K. Stottlemire, Post 5110, Karlsruhe, Germany; Neilan G. Dailey, Post 1786, Manhattan, Kans.; Robert T. Hysko, Post 9885, Westland, Mich.; Nicholas D. Cavallaro, Sr., Post 524, Corning, N.Y.; Robert D. Bishop, Post 2466, Lubbock, Texas; John W. Dooley, Post 993, Portsmouth, Va.; Robert Rose, Post 1651, Pasco, Wash., and Lauriston Goddard, Post 3562, Richfield, Ohio.

Marty



VFW Insurance Pays Out \$140 Million

One hundred and forty million dollars.

That is how much has been paid out to date in claims to members insured under VFW-Sponsored Insurance Plans.

That is money insured members did not have to pull out of their own pockets to pay hospitalization costs. It is money members' families used to meet the unexpected financial burdens that result from the loss of a loved one. It is money members used to pay medical bills that Medicare left unpaid.

Now more than 2 million Certificates of Coverage for VFW-sponsored life, health and accident insurance plans protect members of the VFW and its Ladies Auxiliary.

Members who own these Certificates of Coverage enjoy economical rates and some of the best coverage of its kind available in the United States.

VFW-sponsored insurance plans took years of careful planning and

tough negotiating to put together.

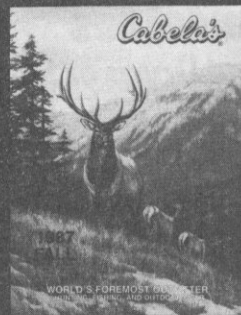
First, the VFW set out to find solid insurance companies which offered the supplementary life and health plans members needed. When a plan was found that delivered the right coverage, the VFW used its muscle as one of America's largest veterans' organizations and its oldest major veterans' organization to get the best rates available.

Only then was the VFW's Official Seal of Approval placed on selected plans. National Headquarters stands behind every plan recommended.

Great pride is taken by the organization in VFW-sponsored insurance programs. They allow National Headquarters to help you make things more secure for yourselves and your families.

With these programs protecting you, money will be available to help you and/or your family over the rough times, if something tragic happens. ■

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Beware of cheap & inferior imitations - Insist on the Original...



Flatten your
stomach in just
minutes a day!

Amazing Gut Buster™ turns ordinary sit-ups into tummy tightening power stretches.

Yes, this gutsy little machine speeds you from fat to flat!

Gut Buster is specifically designed to firm and flatten the stomach as nothing else can. Get back that flat stomach you had in high school—even though you thought those days were gone forever.

This extraordinary exerciser turns ordinary sit-ups into tummy tightening power stretches. Gals, Gut Buster is so tough on tummies you quickly get in perfect shape for snug jeans, knits and swim suits. Guys can trade those bulging bellies for sexy, sensuous muscle—fast!

**SO COMPACT IT
TRAVELS ANYWHERE**

Durable, no-nonsense construction makes Gut Buster the only stomach exerciser you'll ever need. Yet, it's so compact you can take it wherever you go. Pop it in your suitcase for trimming when you travel. Use it while you

watch TV, at the office—anywhere—anytime you have a few minutes to spare.

Forget about gyms, expensive rowing machines and wasted energy on exercises you don't need. If your stomach is the problem, Gut Buster is your answer!

NO RISK GUARANTEE

Don't settle for anything but the original Gut Buster. You risk nothing when you order. You must see a flat-as-a-pancake stomach or return it within 30 days for a full refund of your purchase price.

Go ahead Gut Busters, order today to get your stomach flat and keep it like that!

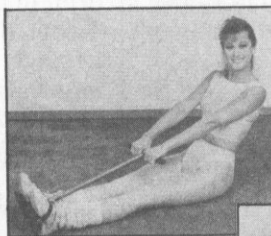
ORDER TOLL FREE

Credit card customers don't wait any longer to get a flat stomach. Call toll free today:

1-800-255-4321 Ask for operator 4069.

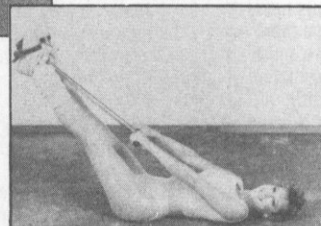
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How to Make Your Arteries Cleanse Themselves

Without Drugs or Surgery

Edwin Flatto, M.D.



(SPECIAL FEATURE)—Good news for everyone who is health conscious! A remarkable new health guide by Dr. Edwin Flatto is now available that reveals a medically tested method that can stimulate arteries to cleanse themselves—the natural way—without drugs or surgery.

It's called "Cleanse Your Arteries & Save Your Life." And it shows you exactly how nature can activate your body's built-in artery cleansing mechanism once you stop eating the wrong foods. It also warns you of the potential danger of certain so-called "cholesterol" diets.

Your own doctor will tell you that partially blocked arteries can produce many of the following symptoms. And he'll also agree that many of these symptoms may be improved once circulation is enhanced and the cleansing process begins. "Cleanse Your Arteries & Save Your Life" is based on documented scientific principles that can help:

- Reduce chest pain (angina)
- Reduce the risk of bypass surgery
- Lower the incidence of heart disease
- Reduce dizziness & loss of balance
- Improve a partial loss of hearing
- Help clear up ringing in the ears
- Help clear up leg pain, cramps or tiredness in the legs
- Stimulate your body to produce a natural substance that seems to protect against heart attack
- Make your body dispose of cholesterol
- Thin out sludgy, poor circulating blood
- Reduce blood triglyceride levels
- Lower high blood pressure naturally

By following Dr. Flatto's advice you can feel better than you have in years. You'll learn which delicious foods to eat and which to avoid. And you'll probably have more energy than you know what to do with. Here's just a small sample of the useful and helpful information you'll find in this valuable aid to better health:

- When women run higher risks for heart attacks
- Which vitamins seem to offer protection against heart disease
- Which popular health foods may be dangerous
- The real truth about chelation therapy
- The real truth about Omega-3 fish oils
- The real truth about polyunsaturated fats
- How to calm your nerves naturally
- What simple food can help you lose weight
- How to relieve gas and constipation naturally

Right now, as part of a special introductory offer, you can receive a special press run of "Cleanse Your Arteries & Save Your Life" by Edwin Flatto, M.D. for only \$8.95 plus \$1 postage and handling. It is not available in any bookstore. It is only available through this special offer. Your satisfaction is 100% guaranteed. If you are dissatisfied in any way, simply return it in 30 days for a full refund—no questions asked.

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I N T H E F I E L D

"Wherever there is a VFW Post, the community is a better place to live."

How many times have you heard that?

Plenty, of course, but in recent months a large number of Posts have reported what would appear to be an upsurge in activities of all kinds directly benefiting not just communities but individuals, especially those in veterans' facilities.

Thanks to the efforts of Joseph J. Dorman, a Life Member of Post 2973, Suffern, N.Y., veteran of Pearl Harbor, Gov. Thomas Kean, of New Jersey, issued a proclamation commemorating the attack on Pearl Harbor and presented it to Dorman.

Dorman also reports that in recent months the Post entertained patients at the Castle Point VA hospital with a picnic, donated a \$1,200 flagpole to the village of Suffern and sent \$1,000 to the VFW National Home in Eaton Rapids, Mich. In addition, the Post has held Christmas and Halloween parties for children in the area.

One of the largest donations from a single Post recorded in recent months was the \$30,000 given by Post 9625, Coon Rapids, Minn., to the city's Community Scholarship Association.

The \$30,000 will be used to begin the Post's perpetual scholarship fund and will be invested by the association, with interest being used to fund scholarships for seniors graduating from Coon Rapids High School.

Post Commander James Penn presented the donation to Bruce Frank, association president, in the presence of the Post's scholarship committee composed of Don Gorder, Ole Cleveland and Ken Garves. Jack Kreager, a director of the association, also took part in the ceremonies.

A portable dialysis system was given to the Houston, Texas, VA hospital by members of Post 1839 and its Ladies Auxiliary in Cleveland, Texas.

Jack Jarrett, of the hospital, ac-

cepted the gift from Post Commander Edwin Wallet, Auxiliary President Christine Brown, President Bonnie Hughes, of the District 2 Auxiliary, and Post Service Officer Joe Ferguson.

At about the same time that was going on in Texas, nearly 10,000 VFW members, representing 22 separate Posts, joined together to purchase complete furnishings for two lounges in the Nursing Home Care Unit (NHCU) at the North Chicago, Ill., VA Medical Center.



Joseph J. Dorman, a Pearl Harbor survivor, receives a proclamation commemorating the attack from New Jersey Gov. Thomas Kean.

A party was held in the NHCU to thank representatives from Illinois Districts 4 and 5 for their generous donation. Furnishings included everything from rugs on the floor to pictures on the wall and even a sofa bed for use by family members who want to stay near a seriously ill relative.

"On behalf of all our veterans and their families, I want to say thank you to all 33 VFW Posts," said Mrs. Marsha Jaroch, NHCU supervisor.

"I know these rooms will be in great demand," she added.

"The VFW Posts have been great supporters of the North Chicago VA Medical Center. The support of veterans' service organizations like the VFW makes it much easier to provide our veterans with the quality of care they deserve," said Orville Lips, acting associate director of the North Chicago VA Medical Center.

The North Chicago NHCU, however, was not the only element of the

VA medical center to benefit from the generosity of an Illinois VFW unit, for **Post 7706**, Barrington, Ill., presented 24 new television sets for patients' rooms to the facility.

They were turned over to Doug Shouse, assistant chief of Voluntary Service, by Commander Dan Kelly, of Post 7706, with several other medical center officials and Post 7706 officers and members in attendance for the event.

Another spring gift was a check for \$10,000 by **Post 1642** to the new Minneapolis VA Medical Center, expected to open in the fall, for the purchase of wheelchairs. Post 1642 is located in Waseca, Minn. The check was turned over to Steve Moynahan, director of Voluntary Service at the medical center, by Commander Dick Buck, of Post 1642, with Post Service Officer Al Spies and Post QM Wes Bryant assisting.

Only a few days later, **Post 305**, Eau Claire, Wis., presented a \$2,000 check to the Minneapolis medical center to buy television sets for the patients. Presenting the check to Moynahan was Post Commander Bernard Hartung, Post Adjutant and Department Sr. Vice Commander George Pfielsticker and Post Service Officer Ray McFarlane.

Nor has the Bay Pines Medical Center in Florida been forgotten.

Post 9643, Largo, Fla., and its Ladies Auxiliary have donated four 13-inch color television sets and a 25-inch console and a video cassette recorder to the facility.

The presentation was made to Domiciliary Chief John A. Benson and Assistant Chief Trudy A. McCanney by Post Commander Chris Lachenauer, QM Wilbur Schnatz, Auxiliary President Clara Topolski, Auxiliary Secretary Vivian Smith, Auxiliary Representative Virginia Frankenburg and VFW VAVS Representative Ray Lindberg.

Value of the gifts was \$2,800. ■

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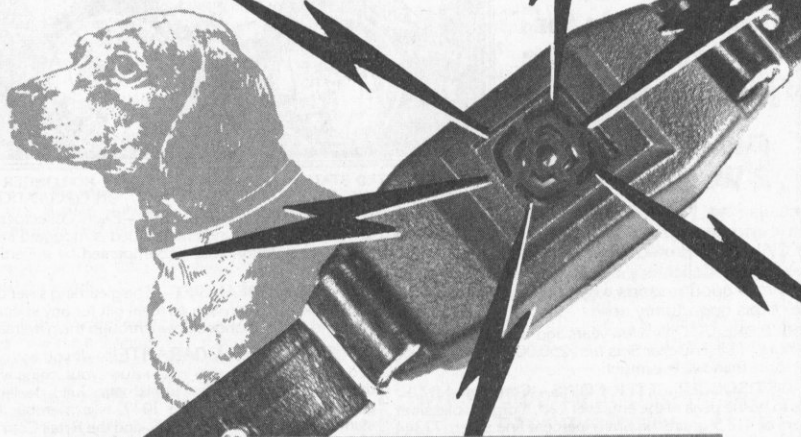
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VFW Succeeds Where Others Fail

The VFW's claim of service second-to-none is not a catch-phrase to capture the veteran's imagination, but rather a statement of truth that undergirds the framework of this nation's oldest major veterans' organization.

E. C. Alford, Jr., a military retiree living in Richland, Mo., knows what this means because he has firsthand knowledge of the VFW's commitment to the principle of service, and soon, if he has not already, will become a VFW Life Member.

Prior to his involvement with the VFW, Alford was represented by another large veterans' organization in the prosecution of his claim before the VA. That organization's failure

to obtain the benefit sought and Alford's belief that he was misrepresented led him to the VFW in January, 1984, and a meeting with Dennis Flynn, Missouri VFW Department Service Officer.

Flynn, a Vietnam veteran and a highly competent claims technician, began by thoroughly studying Alford's records. Quickly, he discovered the veteran's allegation of prior misrepresentation was well supported. He not only found a misfiled Veterans Administration rating decision showing a 10% service-connected spinal condition which everyone had overlooked for 17½ years, including Alford's former representative, but he observed that the former repre-

sentative had failed to take appropriate action to appeal a May, 1982, decision by the St. Louis VA Regional Office denying the veteran a rating higher than 60% for a service-related heart condition even though the decision itself stated that Alford was not able to work.

Flynn's task in rectifying the improprieties by the previous representative was not easy. He was, however, willing to take the steps to straighten things out and to ensure that the veteran received all he deserved.

Flynn persuaded the VA to examine Alford to ascertain the severity of the service connected disabilities. Flynn judged the completed examination to be inadequate for rating purposes and was successful in having the veteran reexamined by the VA. Again, the results were not to Flynn's satisfaction, nor were two more.

Believing he could go no further at the St. Louis office, Flynn filed an appeal to the Board of Veterans Appeals (BVA) in Washington, D.C. Through the efforts of the VFW Appeals Staff, the case was returned to St. Louis not once, but twice, in an attempt to achieve a medical evaluation worthy of rating consideration. Following the second remand, the regional office, fearing yet another remand by the BVA, conceded that Alford was totally disabled because of his service related disabilities.

A 100% rating was awarded, effective January, 1983. Retroactive compensation came to approximately \$20,000. His retroactive entitlement would have exceeded \$40,000 if Alford had not received military retired pay during this period.

It is clear that the veterans' organization which previously represented Alford did not do its job. The intervention by the VFW, without doubt, put things right, proving once more that quality service wins. ■

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NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

Veterans of Foreign Wars
of the United States

1986-87 Series General Orders No. 9

- The following appointments are hereby announced:
NATIONAL DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF: Harlan E. Embrey, Post 3404, Springfield, Mo., and ASSISTANT INSPECTOR GENERAL: James R. Mueller, Post 5077, O'Fallon, Mo.
- Installing officers are directed to see to it that the Post Election Report forms have been completed and mailed to Department and National Headquarters prior to installing Post Officers. If a Post Election Report form has not been forwarded to Department and National Headquarters at the time of installation the installing officer shall complete and forward such report at the time of the installation of Post Officers.
- Post, County Council, District, Department Commanders and Adjutants are reminded of the requirements of Sections 216 (c), 316, 414 (c) and 515 (c) with regard to proof of eligibility for all newly elected and appointed officers. Elected and appointed officers shall not be installed or assume the duties of their office until proof of eligibility is in the files of the Adjutant. Failure or refusal to submit proof of eligibility shall result in the office being declared vacant and shall be grounds for challenge and ultimate removal from the membership rolls.
- Attention of Post Adjutants is directed to Section 107, Manual of Procedure Transfers. Forms P-150 are available through Department Headquarters or may be requested from National Headquarters and shall be completed before accepting a member by transfer from another Post.
- Department Adjutants will immediately forward a complete roster of the newly elected and appointed Department Officers to the Adjutant General as soon as the officers have been installed.
- Attention of Department Quartermasters is directed to Section 517, Manual of Procedure, "Duty of Department Quartermaster" paragraph (g), which states: "The Department Quartermaster shall prepare a tentative budget for the financial operations for the ensuing year. Said budget must be in general conformance with forms provided by National Headquarters and shall set forth all estimated receipts and anticipated expenditures. Restricted funds shall be budgeted separately in every instance and the budget shall be in balance. The tentative budget must be submitted to the Department Council of Administration for consideration at its first meeting following the Department Convention. Final action must be taken on the adoption of the budget at said meeting and when adopted it shall be the expenditure guide for the Department. One copy of the approved budget must be forwarded to the Adjutant General." Attention is further directed to paragraph (1), which states: "He shall set up and maintain a dues reserve fund to which shall be credited not less than fifty per cent of all current year's dues received prior to July 1. He shall not disburse nor shall an obligation be incurred against this fund until after July 1, at which time all moneys to the credit of the fund shall be transferred to the Department General Fund for expenditure in accordance with the approved Department budget."
- Section 222 of the National Constitution and By-Laws provides that Posts shall elect delegates and alternates to the National Convention at the last meeting in June. Posts are entitled to one (1) delegate and one (1) alternate for each fifty (50) members or fraction thereof in good standing at the time of election.
- Delegate strength of each Post to the National Convention shall be based on the National dues received by the Quartermaster General as of July 5 except for Posts that are chartered after that date.

9. Section 222 of the National Constitution and By-Laws requires that each Post shall register in advance one, or more, delegates to the National Convention. Advance registration fee is six dollars (\$6.00) per delegate and should be mailed to Quartermaster General, VFW National Headquarters, Kansas City, Missouri 64111. Registration at the National Convention will be \$8.00.

10. Effective May 15, 1987, all correspondence for the National Convention Director should be sent to: Omar Kendall, Director, VFW 88th National Convention, New Orleans Hilton Hotel, Suite 406, 2 Poydras Street, New Orleans, Louisiana 70140.

The Convention Office will open Tuesday, May 26, 1987, and office hours will be from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

The telephone numbers are 504-524-2848 and 504-524-2850.

All requests for room reservations should be mailed to Department Adjutant/Quartermasters.

11. Attention is called to the provisions of Section 703, National Constitution and By-Laws which require that each accountable officer of this Organization shall be bonded with an indemnity company as surety in a sum at least equal to the amount of the liquid assets for which so far as can be anticipated, he may be accountable. The bond premium shall be paid from the funds of the National Organization, Department, District, County Council or Post as the case may be, to which each officer is accountable. The bonds of such accountable officers in the amount and as to the surety shall be approved by their respective units and held by their respective commanding officers. The Commander of each unit shall be responsible for the proper and adequate bonding of all accountable officers in his unit.

12. Attention is called to the provisions of Section 517, National Constitution and By-Laws paragraph (f), which require that the Department Commander shall see that the office of the Department Quartermaster is bonded in an amount to insure good and sufficient security, to be approved by the Council of Administration.

13. Section 218 of the National Constitution and By-Laws, requires that the Post Commander shall see that the Post Trustees Reports of Audit are properly prepared and submitted each quarter.

14. Attention of incoming Post Officers is directed to Section 218, Manual of Procedure, which outlines the duties of various Post Officers.

15. The location of Post 9934 has been changed from Marion to Earle, Ark.

16. Certificates of charters evidencing consolidation have been issued to the following Posts: Posts 805 and 8475 consolidated as Post 805, O'Fallon, Ill.; Posts 1180 and 7425 consolidated as Post 1180, Coos Bay, Ore., and Posts 3153 and 10560 consolidated as Post 3153, Chilton, Wis.

17. Charters for the following Posts have been authorized: Post No. 2448, Bethany, Conn.; Post No. 2871, Woodbridge, Conn.; Post No. 3125, Doswell, Va.; Post No. 3718, Norco, Calif.; Post No. 3779, Camden, N.J.; Post No. 3802, De Quincy, La.; Post No. 3819, Reno, Nev.; Post No. 3841, Mansura, La.; Post No. 3853, Middleton, Mass.; Post No. 3857, Colrain, Mass.; Post No. 4044, Columbus, Ohio; Post No. 5125, Centerville, Ill.; Post No. 5127, Ogden, Ill.; Post No. 5172, Champaign, Ill.; Post No. 5622, Winchester, Ohio; Post No. 5822, Byron, Mich.; Post No. 5832, Grosse Pointe, Mich.; Post No. 5874, Detroit, Mich.; Post No. 5889, Comstock Park, Mich.; Post No. 5918, Holmdel, N.J.; Post No. 6045, Grand Rapids, Mich.; Post No. 6075, Lebanon, Ill.; Post No. 6188, Baltimore, Md.; Post No. 6291, Murray, Ky.; Post No. 6314, Centerburg, Ohio, and Post No. 6980, Jenison, Mich.



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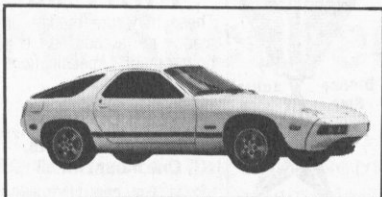
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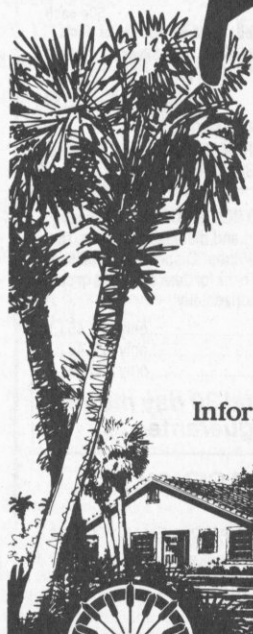
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GENERAL ORDERS

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

Veterans of Foreign Wars
of the United States

1986-87 Series General Orders No. 10

1. Posts that have not sent in a Post Election Report Form, listing the Post officers for 1987-88 will not receive credentials for the National Convention.
2. Posts are reminded they must register, in advance, one or more delegates to the VFW National Convention (Section 222 of the National Constitution and By-Laws). Advance registration fee is six dollars (\$6.00) per delegate and should be mailed to the Quartermaster General, VFW National Headquarters, Broadway at 34th Street, Kansas City, Missouri 64111.
3. Attention is drawn to the following procedure on Resolutions: Policy of the Veterans of Foreign Wars is established by resolutions adopted by the National Convention. Most such resolutions originate at the Post, County Council, District or Department levels. Those resolutions approved by a Department Convention which affect matters outside state boundaries must be forwarded by the Department Adjutant to the Adjutant General for consideration by the National Convention.

Resolutions may also be originated by Department Officers or by the Department Convention itself and acted upon by the Department Convention. National Officers may originate resolutions and submit them directly to the National Convention. Also, National Convention Committees may originate resolutions and present them for approval during the National Convention. Resolutions offered by delegates from Posts during the National Convention must bear the endorsement of the Department Commander or Department Adjutant and must be submitted to the Adjutant General at the National Convention for numbering and referral to the appropriate convention committee.

Resolutions adopted by the National Convention become the lawful orders of the National Convention and as such are binding upon all subordinate units of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. No Post, County Council, District or Department is permitted to publicly communicate contrary positions to the National By-Laws or to the resolutions adopted by the National Convention except that proposed changes in policy may be introduced by subordinate units by the preparation, adoption and submission of resolutions within the channels of the organization for consideration as outlined here.

4. Certificates of charter evidencing consolidation have been issued to the following Posts: Posts 10069 and 8250 consolidated as Post 10069, St. Joe, Fla.; Posts 6869 and 1485 consolidated as Post 6869, North Riverside, Ill.; Posts 344 and 6886 consolidated as Post 344, San Jose, Calif.; and Posts 1534 and 1035 consolidated as Post 1534, Desert Hot Springs, Calif.
5. Charters for the following Posts have been authorized: Post No. 3829, Great Bridge, Va.; Post No. 4022, Commercial Point, Ohio; Post No. 4460, Burtonsville, Md.; Post No. 4510, Seguin, Texas; Post No. 5162, Huntsville, Ala.; Post No. 5175, Gurley, Ala.; Post No. 5271, Brantley, Ala.; Post No. 5450, Crestview, Fla.; Post No. 5554, San Diego, Calif.; Post No. 5664, Cardington, Ohio; Post No. 5692, Savannah, Ohio; Post No. 5734, Jersey City, N.J.; Post No. 5817, Mount Holly, N.J.; Post No. 6293, Yarmouth, Mass.; Post No. 6305, Harrison Township, Mich. and Post No. 7089, Tumwater, Wash.

By Command of
Norman G. Staab
Commander-in-Chief

OFFICIAL:
Howard E. Vander Clute, Jr.
Adjutant General

CLAIMS

Readers are urged to help these veterans seeking claim substantiation statements. Submit claims assistance requests to VFW Magazine, Claims, 406 W. 34 St., Kansas City MO 64111.

AIR FORCE

Pope AF Base, North Carolina, (1960-70)—Seeking Charlie Kelly.—Joe Searcy, 2300 Ramsey St., Fayetteville NC 28301.

4th Air Supply Sqdn., 4th Air Depot, (Philippines, 1946)—Seeking Lt. Dale Timm & Cpl. Calvin Heaton or anyone who remembers when our truck turned over.—Robert Hamilton, 6784 Beatrice, Fruitland ID 83619.

33rd Fighter Sqdn., (Iceland)—Seeking anyone who remembers when a 37mm from a P39 was fired at me.—John Dalton, 27 University, Buffalo NY 14214.

ARMY

235th QM Bn., APO 464, (Italy, 1944)—Seeking anyone who remembers an accident in a convoy involving two British trucks on or about June 20, 1944.—Galen Cook, 127 Lynwood, Ottumwa IA 52501.

10th Armored Div., 82nd AB, 489th Ambulance Co., (Germany, WWII)—Seeking anyone who remembers my walking problem, especially 1st/Sgt. Evers.—Albert Lanzzone, 9 West Madison Rd., Holiday FL 33590.

25th Inf. Div., 5th Inf., HHC 1st Bn., (Mech.), (Vietnam)—Seeking anyone who remembers the heavy artillery shelling & when Leon Guerrero was hurt, especially Lt. McQueen & Sgt. Gamez.—Jose Garza, 3850 Briarhaven Dr., San Antonio TX 78247.

24th Div., 19th Inf. Co. E., (Korea)—Seeking anyone who remembers my frostbite.—Charlie Johnson, 1942 Lynbrook, Memphis TN 38116.

3rd Inf. Div., 15th Rgt., Co. G., (Korea, 1951-52)—Seeking Sgt. Johnson, Cpl. Hammond & Cpl. Ingham.—Walter Williams, RT. 10, Box 450, Cookeville TN 38501.

207th QM Ord., (Fort Francis, WY & Fort Leonard Wood, MO) & 190th QM Gasoline Supply Co., (Australia & New Guinea)—Seeking anyone who remembers when I hurt my back while lifting gas drums.—Harless Dawson, RT. 1, Tioga TX 76271.

Camp Gordon, GA, Co. F., SCRTC, (April, 1952)—Seeking Capt. Robert Butterfield, Edward Collins & Charlie Case.—Jesse Lara, 522-A Teakwood, Laredo TX 78041.

2nd Armored Cav. Rgt., 1st Bn., Co. A., (Germany, 1950-51)—Seeking anyone who remembers my leg injury, especially medic, pltn. leader Lt. Wheat, Squad leader Sgt. Florio & Arthur Stewart.—Paul Cox, 1645 Georgia Ave. Ext., Bristol TN 37620.

19th Combat Engr. Bn., Co. D., LZ Thunder—Seeking anyone who remembers my back injury and hearing loss, especially Sgt. Blevins, Capt., Donaldson & Lt. Parsons.—Gary Grubbs, 1512 Cherry St., Gainesville TX 76240.

82nd AB Div., 505th Inf., Co. C., (WWII)—Seeking Pltn. Sgt. Lyle Kohler & Cliff Berry in regard to my ruptured lung.—Earl Gearhart, 129 N. Marina, Prescott AZ 86301.

154th Transport Co., 14th Port Bn., (Pusan, Korea)—Seeking anyone who remembers when I injured my back and head, especially Sgt. Sweeney & Cpl. John Doyle.—Louis Malone, 531 Jefferson St., Jefferson LA 70121.

65th Inf. Rgt., (1953-54) & 68th AFA, (Ft. Hood, TX)—Seeking anyone who remembers my stomach problems & when I crashed into a barbed wire fence in a jeep.—Corey Harkness, RT. 3, Box 1061, Panama City FL 32405.

66th Cav. Recon. Trp.—Seeking Sgt. Robert Scott & Stanley Turner or anyone who recalls the booby trap that exploded in my hand.—Edward (Tiny) Winter, RT. 1, Box 306, Guilford IN 47022.

36th Engr. Rgt., 2nd Bn. & 14th Engr. Bn., (WWII), (Korea or Vietnam)—Seeking any former members.—Walter Tulloch, 14th Engr. Bn. Hdq., Fort Ord CA 93941.

1903 Engr. Avn. Bn., Co. B., (Korea, 1952-53)—Seeking Earl White.—Verdon Phillips, 5539 Alameda Ln. W., Crystal River FL 32629.

6th Bn., 33rd Arty., LZ Sharon, (March-May, 1968)—Seeking anyone who remembers when the chopper spraying Agent Orange could not turn off & anyone who remembers when commo. plt. hooch took an 81mm mortar hit.—Al Williams, 750 Pennsylvania Ave., Elmira NY 14904.

continued on page 46



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CLAIMS

continued from page 45

MARINES

5th Rgt., 1st Mar. Div., 3rd Btry., Weapons Co.—Seeking anyone who remembers my hearing problems—John McDuffey, RT. 4, Box 84B, Zachary LA 70791.
1st Mar. Div., 2nd Rgt., 2nd Bn., Co. G., (1941-43)—Seeking Salvadore Gulino—Bob Mertz, 3415 S. Airport Rd., Bridgeport MI 48722.
1st Mar. Div., 7th Rgt., 1st Shore Party Bn., (Oct.-Dec., 1950)—Seeking anyone who remembers when I had pneumonia—Robert Blankenship, PO Box 755, White Pine TN 37890.
MCB #3, (Subic Bay, PI, 1954)—Seeking anyone who remembers me, especially Curtis Faulkner, David Brown, Raymond Southall, Richard Parker & Robert Clouson—Albert Harms, 8409 Trumbull SE #A, Albuquerque NM 87108.

NAVY

USS Oglethorpe (AKA-100), (1944-46)—Seeking Melvin Williams—Emil Brasko, 2924 Bundy Rd., Coloma MI 49038.
USS Waxbill (AMS-39), (Dec. 1950)—Seeking J.L. Anderson or other crew members who recall my injury and transfer to Bremerton, WA Navy Hosp. on 12-15-50—J.P. Walleit, PO Box 1211, Temple TX 76503.
LST 721, USS Pensacola, (WWII), LST 942 & USS ABSD #2, Section 4—Seeking anyone who remembers me and my service connected injuries—Robert West, 4316 Lincoln Ave., Lawton OK 73505.
USS St. Louis—Seeking Charles Painter & J. Mike Michelosky—John Leslie, 8403 170th Ave. E., Sumner WA 98390.
Army Transport SS Thomas Corwin (KKW), Treasure Island, San Francisco CA, South Pacific—Seeking those who remember my skin disorder, especially Lt. Corbin Burbank, Coxswain Falvey, Gunner's Mate Leroy Sasser & Owen Harlan—Philip Gorringer, PO Box 22258, Milwaukie OR 97222.
USS Klondike—Seeking Marlin Smyrl from Texas or the medic on board, (July, 1951-52)—Charles L. Smith, 207 Ridgeway, Olney IL 62450.
LST 57, ETO, (Summer, 1944)—Seeking comrades who remember my shoulder wounds—Clarence Saxton, 1512 Tammy Ln., Holiday FL 33590.
USS Altamaha (CVE-18)—Seeking anyone who remembers me—Charles Sewell, 1100 Elm, Bonham TX 75418.
USS America, (Vietnam, 1973)—Seeking Lt. Cmdr. Bill Yaconello, Robert Eugene Dauwe, (Seaman) & Med. Corpsman James Harris to verify my head injury—Linwood Earl Dudley, 4015 Newport Ave., Norfolk VA 23508.
USS Erie (PG-50)—Seeking musician or radioman who remembers me—Donald Leetch, 1405 Bridge Dr., Mitchell SD 57301.
USS Cogswell (DD-65), (Nov., 1955-Feb., 1958), USS Rogers (DD-876), (April, 1958-59) & USS McDermut (DD-677), (Nov., 1959-Dec., 1960)—Seeking personnel aboard to verify atomic radiation—Todd Baldwin, 1517 N. 24th Ave., #15, St. Cloud MN 56301.
USS Briareus (AR-12), (Portsmouth, VA) & USS Pocono (AGC-16), (Norfolk, VA)—Seeking anyone who remembers me, especially Dennis from WI & David Wright RI—Timothy Sullivan, RT1, Box 9A, Viola WI 54664.

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Reunion announcements are published as a cost-free service to VFW members in good standing. To ensure timely inclusion of your announcement, all information pertaining to the event must arrive in VFW Magazine offices six months prior to the reunion. Reunion announcement forms must be used and can be obtained by writing VFW Magazine, Reunions, 34th and Broadway, Kansas City MO 64111. Publication is limited to one time per calendar year.

AIR FORCE

A-1 Skyraider Assn., (Sea)—Oct., San Antonio TX—R.M. Ware, PO Box 633, Randolph AFB TX 78148.
Boat Sqdn.—Oct., Orlando FL—Wayne Mellesmoen, 204 Gregory Rd., West Palm Beach FL 33405.
4 (SAC)—Oct., Orlando FL—Joseph Musil, 2299 Conway Blvd., Port Charlotte FL 33952.

REUNIONS

Flying Cadet Class 40-F—Oct., Orlando FL—Herb Rosenthal, 5108 Brittany Dr. S., St. Petersburg FL 33715.

National Glider Pilots Assn., (WWII)—Oct., Dayton OH—Don Collins, 16807 Winchester Rd., Ashville OH 43103.

Pilot Training Class 48-A—Oct., Randolph AFB TX—John Oliver, PO Box 296, Salado TX 76571.

Mustangs to Sweden Ferry Pilots, (WWII)—Oct., Seattle WA—John Crump, 18902 94th W., Edmonds WA 98020.

Flying Control Tower Assn., (WWII)—Oct., Pittsburgh—Lou Dubnow, 1189 Galesmoore Ct., Westlake Village CA 91361.

1st & 2nd Staff Sqdns. & other units stationed at (Boiling Field, D.C., WWII)—Oct., MD—William Fahr, 34 Weather Oak Hill, New Windsor NY 12550.

BAD 2 Assn., (Warton, England, WWII)—Oct., Harrisburg PA—Ralph Scott, 228 W. Roosevelt Ave., New Castle DE 19720.

3rd Air Depot., 82nd Repair Sqdn., (India)—Oct., FL—Robert Carlson, 566 Jennifer Circle, W. Melbourne FL 32901.

3rd Staff Sqdn., (Shermanfield, Fort Leavenworth, KS)—Sept., Leavenworth KS—Roscoe Swenson, 2053 Highland, Salina KS 67401.

5th Ferrying Gp., Military & Civilian Personnel, (Love Field, Dallas, TX, WWII)—Oct., Peoria IL—Elna Hightower, 4208 Morrow Ave., Waco TX 76710.

5th AF, 90th BG (H)—Oct., Arlington VA—Tom Keyworth, 38 Crestlyn Dr. East, York PA 17402.

5th AF, 679th, 703rd, 1022nd & 1536th Ord. Cos., (WWII)—Oct., Dayton OH—Nate Frankel, 1609 Almar Circle, Louisville KY 40205.

5th AF, 13th Bomb Sqdn., (WWII)—Oct., Norfolk VA—Dave Pennington, 254-B McKnight Circle, Pittsburgh 15237.

5th AF, 8th Photo Recon. Sqdn., (WWII)—Oct., Kansas City MO—Andy Kappel, 6406 Walnut, Kansas City MO 64113.

5th AF, 39th Fighter Sqdn.—Oct., Colorado Springs—Nelson Thompson, 9170 E. 8th St., Tucson AZ 85710.

5th Liaison Sqdn.—Oct., San Antonio TX—Floyd Whitney, 3 Blair Pl., 7200 Porcher Ave., Myrtle Beach SC 29577.

5th Fighter Sqdn., 52nd Fighter Gp.—Oct., Albuquerque NM—Everett Jenkins, 12125 Prospect Ave. NE., Albuquerque NM 87112.

6th Emergency Rescue Sqdn.—Oct., Dallas TX—B.H. Rainwater, Box 570, Ruston LA 71270.

8th Combat Cargo Sqdn.—Oct., San Diego—Paul Vaughan, 4916 Wortser Ave., Sherman Oaks CA 91423.

8th AF, 7th Photo Recon. Gp.—Oct., Pittsburgh PA—Claude Murray, 1933 E. Marshall, Phoenix AZ 85016.

8th AF, 353rd Fighter Gp., 350th, 351st & 352nd Fighter Sqdns., 440th Air Svc. Gp., 1260 MP—Sept., Colorado Springs—Charles Graham, 901 17th St. NW., Farragut Square, Washington DC 20006-3098.

9th AF, 406th Fighter Sqdn., 371st Fighter Gp.—Sept., Dayton OH—Robert Farley, 117 S. Greene St., Boone IA 50036.

50th Air Svc. Gp., HQ Sqdn.—Sept., Dayton OH—Edgar Quillen, 201 Kyle St., Kingsport TN 37665.

94th Fighter Sqdn., (WWII)—Sept., Denver CO—Herschel Baird, 1902 Ave. N., Scottsbluff NE 69361.

312th Trp. Carrier Sqdn.—Oct., Dubuque IA—Allen Mescher, 2160 Avalon, Dubuque IA 52001.

319th BG—Aug., Grand Forks ND—Neal Baker, 1831 South Park Ln., Denison TX 75020.

328th Fighter Control Sqdn.—Sept., York PA—John Elwood, 5716 N. 34th Dr., Phoenix AZ 85017.

367th Heavy BG—Sept., Norfolk VA—Norman Appold, 126 Woodlake Dr. NW., Gainesville GA 30506.

390th BG (H)—Sept., Tucson AZ—John Quinn, 5227 N. Woodmere Fairway, Scottsdale AZ 85253.

397th BG—Sept., Dayton OH—Chester Bauer, PO Box 28682, Columbus OH 43228.

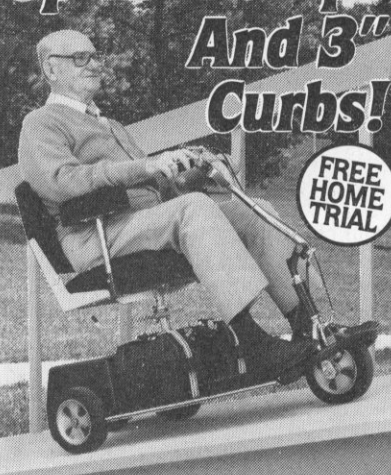
USAFSS/ESC Alumni Meeting—Sept., San Antonio TX—Nada Stenberg, 6960 ESW/CC, San Antonio TX 78243.

USAF-ATC, Ferry Div., (1943-44)—Sept., Niagara Falls NY—John Gannon, 61 Norland St., Holliston MA 01746.

ALL BRANCHES

US Army Armed Guard Vets, (1941-42), 24-man gun-crew, SS Pomona—1988—Ray Didur, PO Box 282, Cement City MI 49233-0282.

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REUNIONS

continued from page 47

Coconut Heads, (Christmas Island)—Sept., Peoria IL—Ernest Garrels, 402 Linn St., Benson IL 61516.

China-Burma-India Veterans Assn.—Sept., San Diego—Homer Stephens, PO Box 643, Bradenton FL 33506.

FT "A" School Staff, NTC—Oct., San Diego—James Flynn, 9902 Jamacha Blvd. Space # 47, Spring Valley CA 92077.

US Horse Cavalry Assn.—Oct., Junction City KS—USHCA, Box 6253, Fort Bliss TX 79906.

National Stearman Fly-in—Sept., Galesburg IL—Ted McCullough, 2310 Monmouth Blvd., Galesburg IL 61401.

Pearl Harbor Remembrance, (All Branches)—Dec.—William Kochever, 1840 Mentor Ave., Painsville OH 44077.

Rhodesian Veterans Assn.—Aug., Las Vegas—Rhodesian Veterans Assn., PO Box 1221, Agoura Hills CA 91301.

Vietnam Veterans Parade—Aug., Waynesboro PA—Dick Avey, 332 West 2nd St., Waynesboro PA 17268.

ARMY

HQ IV Corps. Assn.—Oct., Myrtle Beach SC—Anthony Battillo, 18 Franklin Rd., Hyde Park NY 12538.

Ranger Bn. Assn.—Oct., San Diego—Bob Reed, 15514

Carnell St., Whittier CA 90603.

XIII Corps Assn., (All Ranks)—Oct., Orlando FL—John Bitting, 10104 Quinby St., Silver Spring MD 20901.

1st Inf. Div.—Sept., Charleston SC—Arthur Chaitt, 5 Montgomery Ave., Philadelphia PA 19118.

2nd Cav. Rgt.—Oct., Chicago—Louis Holz, 726 Mancill Rd., Wayne PA 19087.

2nd Div., 23rd Inf., Co. F., (WWII)—Sept., Branson MO—Herbert Barnes, 3001 Coachlight, St. Joseph MO 64503.

4th Recon. Bn.—Sept., Laughlin NV—Don Worrall, 715 N. 23rd St., Copperas Cove TX 76522-1208.

4th Field Hosp., (WWII, Italy & Africa)—Oct., Nashville TN—John Lawler, Franklin Rd., Franklin TN 37064.

4th Base Post Office—Oct., Chicago—Laddie Janura, 3803 S. Elmwood, Berwyn IL 60402.

5th Armored Div. Midwest—Sept., Columbus NE—James Burrell, 9245 N.W. Rochester Rd., Topeka KS 66617.

9th Armored Div., M.P. Pltn.—Aug., Bloomfield IA—Roscoe Grob, 1230 St. Mathew Dr., Florissant MO 63031.

11th AB Div., 1st Cav., 37th Div.—Aug., Anaheim CA—Bill Skinner, 6131 San Rafael Dr., Buena Park, CA 90620.

11th AB Div., 188th Parachute Inf. Co. A—Oct., Pittsburgh PA—John Careatti, RD. 2, Box 220, Monongahela PA 15063.

13th Armored Div., (WWII)—Sept., Yuba City CA—R. Nolt, 10206 Sharon SW, Tacoma WA 98498.

36th Cav. Recon. Sqdn.—Sept., St. Louis—Orrin Tof- toy, 329 West Park Ave., Aurora IL 60506.

37th Div. Vets Assn., (Florida Chapter)—Nov., Kissimmee FL—Denver Martin, 525 Joe St., Zephyrhills FL 34248.

40th Div., 108th Inf., Co. B—Oct., Waterloo NY—Homer Stratton, 32 Mill St., Waterloo NY 13165.

41st Div., (Montana Chapter)—Sept., Billings MT—Earl Clark, 407 S. 34th, Billings MT 59101.

48th Surgical & 128th Evac. Hosp.—Sept., Las Vegas NV—Frank Kukowski, 4470 Vegas Valley Dr. #106, Las Vegas NV 89121.

52nd Sig. Bn.—1987—Ed Lynch, PO Box 463, Hicks- ville NY 11802.

52nd Med. Bn., (WWII)—Oct., Rochester NY—William Smith, 75 Willett St., Albany NY 12210.

62nd AAA Gun Bn., Btry. A—Sept., Joliet IL—Carl Fiala, 513 W. Hammel St., Monterey Park CA 91754.

63rd AAF-FTD, (Douglas GA, Aviation Cadets, II classes, WWII)—Oct., Jekyll Island GA—Paul Schlundt, 3149 N. Winfield, Indianapolis IN 46222.

65th Div., (WWII)—Sept., Kansas City MO—Fred Cass- ata, 123 Dorchester Rd., Buffalo NY 14213.

86th Div., 343rd Inf. Rgt., 3rd Bn.—Sept., Tarpon Springs FL—Warren Smith, 3221 E. Dorchester Dr., Palm Harbor FL 33563.

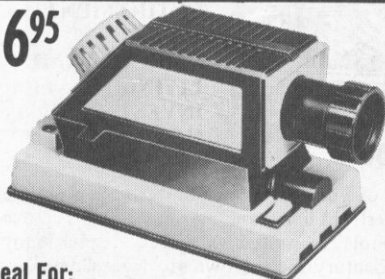
101st MP Bn.—Sept., Atlanta GA—Thomas Farley, 26 Kingston Ave., Hicksville NY 11801.

101st AB Div., 501st Inf., 1st Bn., Co. C., (Vietnam)—1987—Dave Schniederjan, 159 S. Towson, Macon IL 62544.

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134th Inf., (WWII), in conjunction with the 35th Inf. Div.—Sept., Colorado Springs—Jim Graff, RR1, Middletown IL 62666.

157th Engr., Bn. C—Aug., Baltimore MD—Roland Clayton, 912 Log College Dr., Warminster PA 18974.

281st Engr. Combat Bn., (WWII)—Aug., Lexington KY—E.G. Jeffreys, PO Box 66227, Mobile AL 36660.

295th JASCO—Oct., Orlando FL—Joseph Spinicelli, 776 Forestglen Ct., Maitland FL 32751.

346th Ord. Field Depot Co.—Oct., Kansas City MO—Walter Martin, 3969 Quince Rd., Plymouth IN 46563.

455th Cav. Recon. Trp., 45th Inf. Div.—Sept., Albuquerque NM—Paul Hughes, 4111 Avon NW, Albuquerque NM 87107.

556th AAA (AW) Bn., (WWII)—Sept., Newport News VA—H.E. Lashhorn, 3516 Williams Dr., Weirton WV 26062.

560th, 561st & 562nd SAW Bn. Assn.—Oct., Nashville TN—Lee Cordell, 2830 Brighton Ct., Westchester IL 60153.

566th HM Tank Co.—Sept., New Philadelphia OH—Joe Smith, 755 Miller Ave N.W., New Philadelphia OH 44663.

658th Amphib. Trac. Bn.—Sept., Newaygo MI—Mike Cavanaugh, 5516 Front St., Newaygo MI 49337.

691st FA Bn., (WWII)—Oct., Fort Smith AR—Kenneth Rust, 104 Wild Cherry St., Rogers AR 72756.

725th MP Bn.—Oct., Columbia SC—Thomas Carlo, 11 Deep Gorge Rd., Greenwich CT 06830.

746th AAA Gun Bn., (WWII), A, B, C, D & Hdq.—Oct., Atlanta GA—George Stewart, PO Box 495, Tonganoxie KS 66086.

772nd TD Bn.—Sept., Bettendorf IA—Garland Johnson, 110E 1st St So., Melrose MN 56352.

792nd AAA (AW) Bn.—Oct., Jackson TN—Charles Groves, RT. 3, Box 218, Humboldt TN 38343.

804th TD Bn., (WWII)—Sept., Roswell NM—John Gaddy, RT. 3, Box 118, Roswell NM 88201.

809th Engr. Bn. Assn.—Sept., Bushkill PA—Otto Kosel, 320 Glen Rd., Southold NY 11971.

893rd TD Bn.—Sept., Hazleton PA—Harry Sinclair, 684 Md. RT3N, Gambrills MD 21054.

COAST GUARD

Bering Sea Patrol Veterans Assn.—Sept., Oakland CA—Hulin Hurt, 2176 Ethel Porter Dr., Napa CA 94558.

USS LST 762—Oct., St. Louis—Charles Quilico, 914 Caswell St., Ft. Atkinson WI 53538.

USS Spencer CG Assn.—Sept., Lancaster PA—Leroy Havekost, 255 Madison Ave., Saddle Brook NJ 07662.

VPB-6 Sqdn., or any CG Air 43-45—1987—Elmer Forbes, PO Box 204, Trinidad CA 95570.

MARINES

Banana Fleet Marines, Special Svc. Sqdn.—Oct., Mobile AL—Joseph Baburek, 3463 S. 15th St., Omaha NE 68108.

Marine Detachment, USS Minneapolis—Oct., Ruidoso NM—R.G. Babb, 686 Eden Roc Dr., Xenia OH 45385.

Marine Rocket—Sept., Denver—Marvin Taylor, 2612 Main Ave. South, Brookings SD 57006.

WWII Marine, Navy Paratroop Units—Oct., Jackson MS—Dave Severance, PO Box 1972, La Jolla CA 92038.

US MP Co., (Camp Lejeune, NC, 1950-52)—Oct., Auburn MA—Jim Gates, 12 Palisades St., Worcester MA 01604.

1st Amph. Bn., (WWII)—Oct., San Antonio TX—Joe Baumbach, 5527 Berrycreek Dr., Houston TX 77017.

1st Div., 1st Rgt., 2nd Bn., (Vietnam, 1965-71)—Nov., Washington DC—Robert Hughes, PO Box 10, Cape May Court House NJ 08210.

1st MA Wing, MAG 33, (K3), Motor Transport, (Korea, 1953-54)—1987—Milton Zarbok, 1622 Quinlan Ave. S., Lakeland MN 55043.

9th Defense Bn., (WWII)—Oct., Parris Island SC—Frank Chadwick, 2290 Aaron St. #105, Port Charlotte FL 33952.

VMF-212, (March, 1942-Jan., 1943)—1987—F.D. Scrogins, 103 Topeka, Irvine CA 92714.

VMSB-241, (WWII)—Oct., Louisville KY—Vic Wier, 4843 Woodland Dr., St. Joseph MI 49085.

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REUNIONS

continued from page 49

NAVY

USS Chemung (AO-30)—Sept., Chattanooga TN—Charles Webb, PO Box 5157, Chattanooga TN 37406.

USS Detroit (CL-8)—Sept.—USS Detroit, PO Box 6744, Albuquerque NM 87197.

USS Enterprise (CV-6)—Sept., Arlington TX—James Barnhill, 6633 Briley Dr., Fort Worth TX 76180.

USS Fleet Activities, (Pusan, Korea, 1952-54)—Sept., Reno—Jim Supple, Box 29, Fallon NV 89406.

USS Flint (CL-97)—Oct., Norfolk VA—Robert Irwin, 1321 Maplewood Ave., Norfolk VA 23503.

USS Flusser (DD-368)—Sept., New Orleans LA—Eugene Haislip, 7712 Vauxhall Dr., Raleigh NC 27615.

USS Frybarger (DE-705)—Oct., Myrtle Beach SC—Alex Boyd, 5107 Bryce Ln., Richmond VA 23224.

USS Fury (PG-69) & US Corvettes, ETO, (WWII)—Oct., Baltimore MD—Chester Tomaszewski, 846 Franklin St., Trenton NJ 08610.

USS Gambier Bay (CVE-73) & Composite Sqdn. VC10—Sept., Long Beach CA—Tony Potochniak, 1100 Holly Ln., Endicott NY 13760.

USS Herndon (DD-638)—Sept.—Angus Schmelz, 134 Beau Rivage Dr., Ormond Beach FL 32074.

USS Indiana (BB-58)—Sept., Irvine CA—Arthur Field, 5 Overlook Rd., Chatham NJ 07928.

USS Intrepid Assn.—Aug., New York NY—John Mahoney, RD3 Box 4, Windsor Dr., Oakridge NJ 07438.

292nd JASCO—Oct., Las Vegas NV—Bill Keating, 8507 Old Shep. Rd., Louisville KY 40219.

USS Jeffers (DD-621/DMS-27)—Oct., Columbus OH—Warren Hilton, 209 S. Hall St., Morrison IL 61270.

USS John M. Bermingham (DE-530)—Sept., Boston MA—Jack Zito, 24 Main St., Mohawk NY 13407.

USS Keith (DE-241, (WWII))—Oct., Elkhart IN—Justin Andries, 24050 N. Shore Dr., R-85, Edwardsburg MI 49112.

USS Kimberly (DD-521)—Oct., Norfolk VA—Arthur Forster, 2312 Nela Ave., Orlando FL 32809.

USS Kitkun Bay (CVE-71), (WWII)—Oct., San Diego—Walter Moore, 3626 Alcott St., San Diego CA 92106.

USS Kretschmer (DE-329), (WWII)—Oct., Emporia KS—Dwane Robinson, 1032 Whildin St., Emporia KS 66801.

USS Leyte (CV-32) Assn.—Oct., Norfolk VA—Clark Farnsworth, 615 Sanders Ave., Scotia NY 12302.

USS LSM-22—Oct., Lebanon PA—David Taylor, PO Box 297, Bergholz OH 43908.

USS LSM-40—Sept., Reading PA—E.L. Fitzpatrick, 250 E. Colorado, La Grange TX 78945.

USS LST-515—Sept., Norfolk VA—Paul Gerolstein, 32 Curran Rd., Lynn MA 01905.

USS LST-851—Sept., Belleville IL—LST-851 Assn., 18906 Wildwood Ave., Lansing IL 60438.

USS LST-931—Late Summer—Ed Mendenhall, 3398 Nottingham Rd., Winston Salem NC 27104.

USS La Porte (APA-151), (WWII, PTO)—Oct., Charleston SC—John Warner, 67 Jacobs Hwy., Binghamton NY 13901.

USS Mack (DE-358)—Oct., Norfolk VA—Cyril Kanoza, 811 Sleepy Hollow Rd., Castle Shannon PA 15234.

USS Manchester (CL-83)—Sept., Buffalo NY—Frank Helfenberger, 13340 19th Ave. N.E., Seattle WA 98125-4115.

USS Marshall (DD-676), (WWII)—1987—Walter Bunting, 435 West 1st Ave., Rummelmeier NJ 08078-1545.

USS Maryland (BB-46)—Sept., Long Beach CA—Wayne Ring, 1478 La Corta Circle, Lemon Grove CA 92045.

USS Mayrant (DD-402)—Oct., Overland Park KS—Loran Shea, 8102 Monrovia, Lenexa KS 66215.

MCB-1—Oct., Owensboro KY—Jack Noonan, RT. 3, Box 461A, Jacksonville AL 36265.

MCB-12, MCB-27 & 7th MCR Seabees—Sept., Robert Williams, Box 48, Ludlow VT 05149.

Assn. of Minemen—Aug., Reno NV—Lyal Stryker, PO Box 71835, Charleston SC 29415.

USS Orca (AVP-49)—Sept., Charleston SC—Gene Bickers, 128 Piney Bend, Portage IN 46368.

2nd & 4th Naval Beach Bn.—Sept., Danvers MA—Walter Bryant, 7620 E. 50th St., Indianapolis IN 46226.

51st NCB—Sept., Port Angeles WA—Fred Machenheimer, 3660 Graul Rd., Port Angeles WA 98362.

USS Thomas Jefferson (APA-30)—Aug., Montvale NJ—Robert Stewart, 504 Kinderkamack Rd., Westwood NJ 07675.

USS Trenton (CL-11)—Aug., Olympia WA—John Cope-land, PO Box 893, Yelm WA 98957.

VMTB-232, (Solomon Islands, Okinawa) & VMTB-143, (USS Gilbert Islands)—Sept., San Antonio TX—Ed Martin, 1501 Lamonte Dr., Houston TX 77018.

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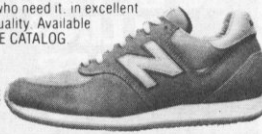
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67th NCB—Reunion?—Joseph Cronin, 108 Laura Hill Rd., St. Peters MO 63376.

USMC Pilots (WWII)—Seeking Hardy Wilcoxon & Donald Wilde—Henry Sakaida, 9555 La Rosa Dr., Temple City CA 91780.

USS Clark (DD-361)—Seeking former crew members—Lindel Smithpeters, 1849 N. Maston, Porterville CA 93257.

950th, 104th & 106th Chem. Processing Cos., (Camp Cresswell)—Seeking former members—Barry Phillips, 26 Rookery Crescent, Cresswell Stoke-on-Trent, ST11, 9RA, England.

16th Cavalry, Co. E, Trp. F., (WWII)—Thor Carlson, 134 89th Ave., Treasure Island FL 33706.

Sqd. VC-20, (WWII)—P.I. Ritz, 220 Aspen Ln., Lititz PA 17543.

11th AF, (WWII)—Reunion?—John Tyler, 225 Rowe Ave., Greencastle PA 17225.

654th Engr. Topo. Bn.—1988?—Joseph Bonadies, 74 Charles River St., Needham MA 02192.

USS PC-551—Seeking former crew members—James Van Nuden, Box 102, Arnegard ND 58835.

USS LST-507, (April, 1944)—Seeking any survivors of sinking—Eugene Eckstam, 2118 20th Ave., Monroe WI 53566.

USS LST-531, (April, 1944)—Seeking any survivors of sinking—Douglas Harlander, Box 307, Frederic WI 54837.

USS Smartt (DE-257)—Seeking all former crew members—Henry Siedlecki, 86 Pearsall Pl., Deer Park NY 11729.

329th Svc. Gp. Sig. Co., ETO & CBI—Reunion?—Bill Hudock, PO Box 332, 3rd St., Rd. 2, Grindstone PA 15442.

101st AB, 320th Artillery Air Mobil, Btry. C.—Seeking Douglas Hansen—Michael Rudy, Box 165, New Derry PA 15671.

28th Div., 112th Rgt., Co. K.—Seeking Walter Vermillion, Frank Jennings, George Lund & Carlyle Spreeman—Thomas Nongueskwa, 14098 Turner Rd., De Witt MI 48820.

348th, 349th, 350th & 351st Air Drome Sqdns., 4th Combat Cargo Gp., (China Burma India Theater, 1944-1966)—Reunion?—John Nicholas, R#2, Box 204, Marmaduke AR 72443.

292nd JASCO—Seeking Richard E. Remington—William Brawn, Belfast Rd., Box 3020, Camden ME 04843.

4th Div., 24th Btry.—Seeking Emolander—Dick Emerson, 409 S. Main, Albion IA 52531.

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seille, Nov. 3-13, 1943, for company history—Ben
Heaton, 221 Evelyn St., Marietta GA 30060.

USS Porterfield (DD-682), (1961-65)—Seeking former
members—Paul Thunstrom, Star Rt., Box 220,
Rochert MN 56578.

VF-173, (1950-55)—Seeking Oscar Harris & E. Stevens—
Jack Stone, 1523 Columbian, Elkhart IN 46514.

USS (LST-606)—Reunion?—Sam Vernacini, 49 Mun-
son St., Le Roy NY 14482.

USS Monterey (CVL-26)—Reunion?—Charles Whited,
2473 Warren Pkwy. No. 4, Twinsburg OH 44087.

USS J. Franklin Bell (APA-16)—Reunion?—Michael
Hayducko, 733A Chatham Ln., Lake Hurst NJ
08733.

USS Bear (AG-29)—Reunion?—Joseph Daigle, PO
Box 621, Rumford ME 04276.

USS (LST-519)—Reunion?—Herbert Arlt, 8151 S.W.
100th Ln. Rd., Ocala FL 32676.

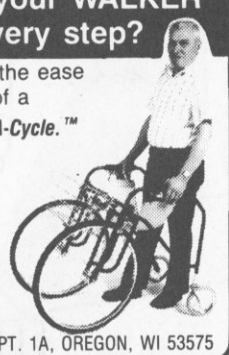
US Navy GAVU, Adv. Base Unit—Seeking Donald Fryling—
John Gilbert, 2159 Moorhouse, Ferndale MI 48220.

5th Mech. Div., 1/61st, Co. A., (Vietnam)—Seeking
survivors for historical information—Patrick Aaron
Maddalino, Rt. 5, Box 164, Live Oak FL 32060.

USS Perch (SS-313)—Reunion?—James Martin, 1473
Crestview Circle, Morristown TN 37814.

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GUADALCANAL

continued from page 27

tives during World War II. The free-
dom movement, which began in the
1950s, had its roots in the so-called
Cargo Cult that rests on the belief
that American ships would soon
return with goods and food.

But the British also deserve credit.
During the colonial period, their
democratic orientation laid the
foundation for self-government. To-
day the Solomon Islanders are proud
of their freedom. As members of the
Commonwealth, they acknowledge
the British Queen Elizabeth II as the
head of state, but as in other Com-
monwealth nations, the queen's rep-
resentative is nominated by the Solo-
mon Islands parliament.

What is the future of the Solomon
Islands? I dare not try to prophesy,
but I hope they will continue to be,
as their people like to say, "The
Happy Isles," thanks to the Ameri-
cans who died there. ■

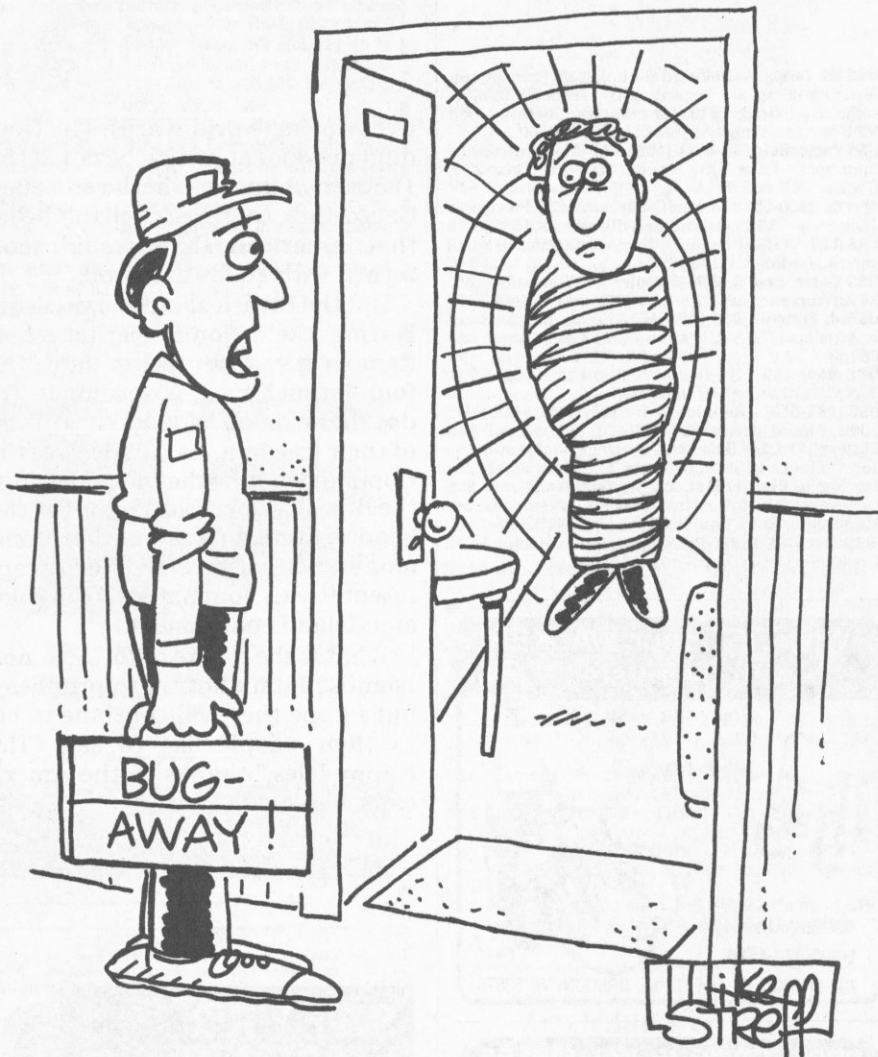
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"You the guy that called about spider problems?"

Military Mites

On one of her visits to see her grandmother in a nursing home, a neighbor took her preschool son along. He insisted on wearing his camouflage outfit like the kind so popular with kids these days. As the two of them made their way toward Grandma's room they passed two ladies sitting in the hall chatting. One of the ladies looked incredulously at the little fellow and said rather loudly to her hard-of-hearing friend, "My! Our soldiers seem to be getting younger all the time!"

Wanted

A group of kindergarten children visited their local police station and viewed the pictures of the ten most

wanted men.

One child pointed to a picture and asked if it really was the photograph of the wanted person.

"Yes," answered the police officer guide.

"Well," inquired the youngster, "why didn't you keep him when you took his picture?"

Walk?

Two fleas had just finished a hard day at the circus. One turned to the other and said, "Shall we walk home or do you want to take a dog?"

Sensation

Four-year-old's description of the sensation when her foot fell asleep: "It feels like ginger ale."

Slovenliness

At the monthly meeting of the church board, the problem of the personal slovenliness of the janitor was brought up for discussion. It was generally agreed that he would have to be discharged, but one kind hearted, little old lady intervened.

"I just hate to see the poor fellow go," she pleaded. "He may be dirty and unkempt on the outside, but, my friends, I am sure he is clean and pure on the inside. Do we have to discharge him?"

"Either that," returned the president of the board, "or turn the fellow inside out."

Portrait

The newly-rich woman was going through a "culture" routine and at this particular moment was standing in front of a painting at New York's famous Metropolitan Museum. It was a beautiful oil of a ragged but happy vagabond.

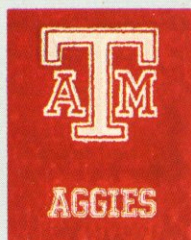
"Well!" exclaimed the woman indignantly, "how do you like that? Too broke to buy a decent suit of clothes, but he can afford to go out and get his portrait painted!"

Music

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